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## ASYLUM FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEERS.

A RECENT Congressional investigation into the affairs of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers has directed public attention to the extent and importance of this institution. General BUTLER, the president and acting treasurer of the society, comes out of the investigation with flying colors. The committee report that they found his accounts correct, and "entirely exonerate him from any charge or suspicion of misappropriation, neglect, or any other misconduct in the discharge of his duties." They also approve the management of the asylum by the board of trustees.

The National Asylum consists of a central asylum at Dayton, Ohio; an eastern branch near Augusta, Maine; a northwestern branch near Milwaukee, Wisconsin; a southern branch at Hampton, Virginia; and soldiers are also sent to the Philadelphia Soldiers' Home. There is also a certain amount of outdoor relief and a great deal of business transacted at Washington, which, as might be expected, is the working headquarters of the institution. Its sources of income are stoppages and fines adjudged against officers and soldiers after deducting Government expenses, forfeitures on account of desertion, money due deceased officers and soldiers which lies unclaimed for three years after their death, but which must be repaid if the heirs appear and claim it. Finally, those soldiers who receive pensions pay for their clothing at cost price, and transportation at half rates when they travel. It is clear that the revenue of the asylum is a variable one, but so far it has been far in excess of expenses. This excess is now \$1,415,000, invested in United States bonds, and it is thought that the amount accumulated will in the end afford an income sufficient of itself to support the asylum. The sum of all amounts received since the beginning in 1865 is \$4,503,410. For land and other permanent property there was spent at Dayton, Augusta, and Milwaukee \$1,212,054, and a building has been purchased at Hampton, Virginia, for about \$40,000.

In all these places there were at the end of November last 4,194 soldiers. They have libraries, workshops, farms, gardens, schools, and provision of various kinds for amusements. Nearly all the work of the institutions is done by the inmates, who are paid for it, and they also do a great deal of commercial work, manufactures, and the like. Of the 3,618 supported at the regular asylums, 893 received pensions to the amount of \$125,490; 663 were employed by the asylums, and paid \$66,535. The results of the workshops do not seem to be fully reported, but the profits at Dayton were \$20,759, and at Augusta \$2,000; the farms and gardens earned \$29,297.

Thus it will be seen that the National Asylum is an institution of no mean importance. Its inmates earned last year \$118,600, and received in pensions \$125,490 more. Out of these sums the thousand and sixty-five families more or less dependent upon the veterans were supported and deposits were made with the treasurer. The average cost of the ration is twenty-five and a third cents a day, and the yearly cost of each inmate averages \$183.

The homes in which the disabled men find a refuge are farms, most of them improved to a high degree of beauty, and capable of giving employment and pleasure to a great number of men. That at Dayton covers 400 acres of wooded hills, and has sixty buildings. At Augusta there are 1,660 acres and more than a dozen buildings. "Our artificial lakes," writes Deputy Governor BROWN, of Dayton, "cover a space of six acres, and our ornamental springs, rustic arbors, grottoes, greenhouses, and hothouses elicit the admiration of all. We have a deer park containing twenty-eight deer." Dayton is further favored of fortune in having been the recipient of the gift of a library and collection of pictures by Mrs. PUTNAM of Massachusetts.

To obtain admittance to the asylum, the disabled soldier must be furnished with a printed form of application filled up by somebody, produce an honorable discharge, and go before an examining officer for proof of disability.

When admitted, their pensions by the terms of the incorporating act are paid to the officers of the asylum. As to the management of these pensions, General BUTLER testifies as follows:

Under a regulation of the board, made in September, 1868, I think, we established this rule, that all pensions should be paid to the treasurer of the branch asylum; that where the pensioner had a wife, child, father, or mother dependent upon him, the pension, or so much of it as he directed, should, through the treasurer, be sent to the relative so dependent, in money on his order; and for that purpose I got each of the asylums made a money-order office so that we could transmit the money orders. And if he had no one dependent upon him, then he could say whether his pension should pay for his clothing, independent of the suit given by the United States, and the remainder invested by the several treasurers of the several branches in savings banks or in such other manner as they could, under their official bonds, for the benefit of the pensioner, so that if he went out into the world with an honorable discharge, able in any way to support himself, he should have the money to help him start in business. If it was evident that he never could go out, it was paid back to him in small amounts for his convenience in obtaining necessities. If at any time he was honorably discharged, the balance was paid over to him by the treasurer; but if he deserted, this balance in our hands was forfeited to the asylum.

One of the General's clerks testified that as many as twenty men presented themselves each day in Washington, of whom perhaps one or two would be admitted. Of the life in the asylums the following extracts from letters given in testimony will be a sufficient description:

At Dayton, Ohio, our command, numbering 1,130 men, is divided into eleven companies, each under the charge of an orderly sergeant, and mustering about 100 men present. We have no corporals or sergeants—simply the orderly sergeant in charge, each of whom makes up a morning report every day, and delivers the same to the post adjutant, who consolidates them. Those sergeants draw and issue underclothing to their men every week, see that their beds are in order and their quarters kept clean, and do any and every thing necessary to the proper police of their barracks. We have an inspection of the full command every Saturday, and an inspection and muster on the first Saturday in each month; and such is the efficiency of the sergeants that we seldom find anything to correct or regulate. The men are very cleanly in their every-day life, and they come on inspection looking neat and in good order.

Among their many praiseworthy qualities, there is one possessed by our men that wins my admiration, and that is their industry. No matter how badly disabled they may be, some ingenious contrivance, generally originating in their own brains, is devised to so far overcome their disability as to make it possible for them to work; and disabled men, inmates of this asylum, perform the necessary work in the bakery and kitchens, on the farm, in the gardens, driving the asylum teams, etc.; in fact, all the asylum work is done by inmates, except four citizen employees, and even these will be dispensed with so soon as inmates are found who are competent to take their places. We have a well-appointed bathhouse, and the men fully appreciate it.

As a natural result of the war, the men were at first demoralized and disorderly, and needed more or less restraint and severity. A guard-house was established, which was at first well patronized, and severe and peremptory measures were found necessary to the proper discipline of the institution. But the humanizing influences of the spacious library, containing 3,234 volumes of the choicest literature, the moral and religious teachings administered, and the refining effect of the splendid grounds and surroundings, rapidly obliterated this moral miasma, so that our guard-house is little used, and discipline is now so easy that peremptory measures are seldom necessary to its enforcement.

For the amusement of the men we employ billiards, bagatelle, pigeon-hole, ten-pins, foot-ball, and base-ball, and each has its votaries, and is fraught with good results. We have also a beautiful music-hall, and many entertainments are given therein by our kind friends of Dayton and vicinity. Few persons are in a better position than we to attest to the loyalty of the American people. We are visited, favored, and entertained by all classes of the people, and every one seems pleased at beholding here what the Government has done for its defenders.

I have nothing more of interest to say, but I cannot close this report without referring to the general good conduct of our men. Here are over 1,100 men, representing a population of at least 8,000 persons, and yet almost as orderly and quiet as a private family. This is a feature of which I am peculiarly proud.—Letter of Deputy Governor Brown.

At Augusta, Maine, one year ago, there was much mental unhealthiness exhibited by the men, both of the active and passive kind, and it soon appeared that not only amusement, but work, was necessary to their happiness and proper discipline.

During the winter, lectures and debates were had, and some concerts and theatrical entertainments given, in which the inmates performed the parts. As soon as spring opened all who were able to do anything at all were set at work on the farm, the reservoir, and on the construction of buildings. Of course citizen mechanics were employed to do the skilled labor, but the men have done a vast amount of simple labor for the Government, on an average pay of \$15 a month. Many men of sedentary habits, old men, and those who have lost a leg, found nothing to do until the establishment of the shoe factory, which was started in June with a proper set of tools and machinery. Four experts were engaged to prepare the work and teach the men. After the drawbacks always to be encountered in such an enterprise, the business may now be said to be well established, with flattering prospects of success in a pecuniary point of view. As for moral success, it is an accomplished fact. Already there are forty men employed who would be otherwise living idle, objectless lives, ready subjects for the tempter in whatever guises he might appear. We have made, up to the date of this report (November 30, 1870), 14,910 pair of shoes, for which we have paid to inmates as their share for labor \$2,008.85. We do not assume that these men are always to remain in an institution of this kind, but expect many of them, as they regain health and spirit, to again go out into the world and take their share in the duties of society and citizenship. And with what stronger hope or assurance can they undertake once more to assume such duties than is inspired by the possession of a good trade!—Letter of Deputy Governor Tilton.

In compliance with instructions from the War Department, the military reservation of Fort Wadsworth, D. T., as announced in General Orders No. 41, series of 1868, from headquarters Department of Dakota, is modified to conform to the corrected survey thereof, made by Captain D. P. Heap, Corps of Engineers, in June, 1870, leaving out that portion of the reservation, as declared October 14, 1867, which is embraced in the Indian reserve of prior date, under treaty stipulations.

## THE ARMY.

THE President of the United States on the 27th of January, 1871, having set apart for military purposes at Fort Colville, Washington Territory, separate military and wood reservations, the boundaries of each are, in conformity with instructions from the Adjutant-General's Office, published for the information of all concerned in General Orders No. 6, headquarters Department of the Columbia, Portland, Oregon, February 23, 1871.

THE companies or detachments of the Sixth Cavalry arriving at Fort Sill, I. T., from the Department of Texas (in accordance with paragraph 3, General Orders No. 17, current series, headquarters of the Army, Adjutant-General's Office), were ordered March 13 to be at once reported by letter from that point to headquarters Department of the Missouri, and will then proceed without delay to Fort Harker, Kansas. From Fort Sill to Fort Harker they will march on what is known as the "Fort Harker and Fort Sill road," via the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian agency on the north fork of the Canadian and the town of Wichita, Kansas. The depot quartermaster at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was ordered March 14 to furnish transportation by boat for Companies B, D, E, and K, Seventh Cavalry, Major Lewis Merrill commanding, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Louisville, Kentucky, where they have since arrived. The depot quartermaster at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was ordered March 15 to furnish transportation by boat, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Louisville, Kentucky, for Companies C and I, Seventh Cavalry, Major Joseph G. Tilford commanding. A Washington despatch to the *Tribune* reports that some of the officials of South Carolina who called on the President to urge that troops be sent to preserve the peace in that State were informed that twelve companies of infantry and four of cavalry had already been ordered there, and that this force would be increased if necessary.

A CORRESPONDENT at Fort Buford, D. T., January 30, 1871, informs us that on the night of the 28th inst. a fire broke out at this post, and in about an hour laid in ashes the quarters of five of the officers, viz.: Assistant Surgeon Washington Matthews, Acting Assistant Surgeon Charles E. McChesney, and Second Lieutenants W. H. Nelson, R. W. Cummins, and W. L. English, Seventh Infantry. The origin of the fire is unknown. Owing to the peculiar construction of the building, the fire raged with great rapidity. The building was originally a long storehouse, which had been converted into officers' quarters, owing to the increase in the number of officers at the post. Dr. Matthews saved nothing but what he had on him at the time. Lieutenant English saved most of his property, but lost over \$350 worth. The other three officers were absent at the time on an expedition to Fort Peck, M. T., and but little belonging to either of them was saved. Dr. Matthews lost all his manuscripts, which were very valuable, being the result of four or five years' labor upon a dictionary and grammar of the Gros Ventre language. The other officers at the post at once opened their quarters to the sufferers, and endeavored by every means in their power to contribute to their wants. "The post," concludes our correspondent, "has a supply of the patent fire extinguishers, which did good work during the fire, and enabled us to save other buildings. The distance of the post from the river (nearly half a mile), and the frigid state of the weather during the winter season, make it very difficult indeed to extinguish a fire here, although when the recent fire was discovered it may be doubted whether or not a "steamer" with an unlimited supply of water could have saved the building."

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the camp of the Twenty-first Infantry is situated in a valley in the Pinal Mountains, and was established as a supply depot for scouting parties operating against the Pinal and Tonto Apaches. The garrison at present consists of three companies of the Twenty-first Infantry: Company E, Captain Evan Miles; Company G, Captain Harry M. Smith; and Company I, Captain William Mc. Netterville. The post is commanded by Captain Evan Miles, and First Lieutenant V. M. C. Silva, of Company E, is acting assistant quartermaster and acting commissary of subsistence, and First Lieutenant Thomas F. Riley, of Company A, is the post adjutant. The camp is distant from Camp



Grant about fifty-five miles, and from Florence on the Gila river about forty miles. A good wagon road has been constructed from the latter place to the base of the mountain twelve miles from the camp, and thence supplies are brought over a trail by pack train. February 14 in the afternoon the pack train which was engaged in carrying supplies from the station at the base of the mountain, to the camp, while at the base of the mountain, was "jumped" by the Indians, supposed to be the Pinala, said to be over two hundred in number, and some forty or fifty mules captured, and two of the packers with them shot, one of them killed and the other seriously wounded. Five Indians were said to be wounded. The small force of infantry engaged in guarding the Government property at the station was unable to follow them, and no cavalry was at hand to do so. So for the time the regiment was left without means of transportation, until a new pack train could be obtained. The force is entirely inadequate for the duties required of it. The aggregate strength of the command is sixty-one present and one hundred and five absent.

Captain W. Mc. Netterville and Lieutenant V. M. C. Silva, of the Twenty-first Infantry, received in February last leave of absence on surgeon's certificate of disability for thirty days.

#### GENERAL ORDERS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
WASHINGTON, March 14, 1871. }

#### General Orders No. 21.

IN connection with General Orders No. 70, October 13, 1869, from this office, the following are announced as the present established chaplain posts allowed by law: Fort Harker, Kansas; Fort Larned, Kansas; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Hays, Kansas; Fort Randall, Dakota Territory; Fort Totten, Dakota Territory; Fort Abercrombie, Dakota Territory; Fort Sully, Dakota Territory; Fort McPherson, Nebraska; Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming Territory; Fort Fred. Steele, Wyoming Territory; Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory; Camp Douglas, Utah; Presidio, San Francisco, California; Angel Island, California; Camp Gaston, California; Camp Harney, Oregon; Camp Warner, Oregon; Camp Verde, Arizona Territory; Fort Whipple, Arizona Territory; Sitka, Alaska; Fort Duncan, Texas; Fort Concho, Texas; Fort Brown, Texas; Fort Union, New Mexico; Fort Wayne, Michigan; Fort Monroe, Virginia; Fort Warren, Massachusetts.

When the station of a post chaplain is changed by the department commander, a copy of the order in the case will be forwarded to the Adjutant-General, that the former post may be discontinued and the new one announced.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }  
WASHINGTON, March 16, 1871. }

#### General Orders No. 23.

Section 2, act approved July 15, 1870: That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed, on or before the first day of July, 1871, to reduce the number of enlisted men in the Army to thirty thousand, and thereafter there shall be no more than thirty thousand enlisted men in the Army at any one time, unless otherwise authorized by law.

Under the foregoing act the following will be the table of organization of the Army from and after July 1, 1871:

Enlisted men of engineers.....	301
Enlisted men of ordnance.....	475
Ordnance sergeants at posts.....	200
Military Academy band.....	24
60 enlisted men per company for 55 companies of artillery.....	3,300
84 enlisted men per battery for 5 batteries light artillery.....	420
54 enlisted men per company for 120 companies cavalry.....	10,080
60 enlisted men per company for 250 companies infantry.....	15,000
Non-commissioned staff of regiments.....	200
	30,000

The non-commissioned staff of regiments are computed as follows:—

Sergeant-majors.....	40
Quartermaster-sergeants.....	40
Chief musicians.....	40
Principal musicians of artillery and infantry.....	60
Saddler sergeants of cavalry.....	10
Chief trumpeters of cavalry.....	10
	200

The rate of enlisted men per company is to include non-commissioned officers and all other grades.

To provide for the reduction of any surplus number of men which may be in service June 30, 1871, company commanders will report to their regimental commanders the names of all indifferent soldiers of their command who ought to be discharged for the good of the service, in season to procure the action of Department Commanders, who will issue necessary orders for such discharges, to take effect June 30, 1871, and also for reducing companies above the standard, and filling those below it, by transfers from one company to another of the same regiment.

Instructions will be given to recruiting officers to diminish the number of recruits enlisted by raising the standard of height and other qualifications, with a view to improving the character of the rank and file of the Army.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

"General Orders No. 24, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, March 17, 1871," publishes the act making appropriations for the Army, of which we gave the substance last week.

#### ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending March 21, 1871.

Tuesday, March 14.

UPON the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Surgeon Madison Mills will report without delay to the general commanding the Department of the East for assignment to duty.

Wednesday, March 15.

Major H. G. Gibson, Third Artillery, will report in person April 1, 1871, to the superintendent General Recruiting Service (Western division) at Newport Barracks, Kentucky, for duty at the principal depot.

The leave of absence granted Colonel P. R. De Trobriand, Thirtieth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 258, September 29, 1870, from this office, is hereby extended until July 1, 1871.

By direction of the President, Second Lieutenant James F. Simpson, Twenty-fifth Infantry, is hereby transferred to the Third Cavalry, and will report without delay and at his own expense to the commanding officer of the Third Cavalry for assignment to a company.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Henry P. Perrine, Sixth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 4, January 11, 1871, from headquarters Military Division of the South, is hereby extended until the arrival of his regiment in the Department of the Missouri.

Post Chaplain Norman Badger is hereby relieved from duty at Taylor Barracks, Louisville, Kentucky, and will report without delay to the commanding officer Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas, for assignment to duty at Fort Concho, Texas.

Post Chaplain Alexander McLeod is hereby relieved from duty at Fort Delaware, Delaware, and will report without delay to commanding officer Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for assignment to a post.

Friday, March 17.

UPON the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, the following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Medical Department are hereby made: Surgeon Joseph R. Smith is relieved from duty at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and will proceed without delay to Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan, and relieve Surgeon B. J. D. Irwin from duty as post surgeon. Upon being relieved from duty at Fort Wayne, Surgeon Irwin will report in person without delay to the commanding officer Department of the Missouri for assignment to duty.

On the recommendation of the regimental commander, the following transfers in the Fifth Infantry are hereby announced: First Lieutenant George McDermott, from Company B to Company C; First Lieutenant Henry Romeyn, from Company C to Company B. Lieutenant Romeyn will join his proper station without delay.

The superintendent General Recruiting Service (Eastern division), New York city, will forward, under proper charge, in detachments of convenient size, two hundred recruits from those which are or may from time to time become disposable at the depot to Louisville, Kentucky, where they will be reported upon arrival to the commanding general Military Division of the South for assignment to the Fourth Infantry.

Captain William Myers, assistant quartermaster, will proceed without delay to St. Louis, Missouri, on public business. As soon as his services can be dispensed with he will return to his proper station.

Hospital Steward Henry Brown, U. S. Army, now on duty at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory, will report in person without delay to the commanding general Department of the Missouri for assignment to duty in that department.

Saturday, March 18.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant J. L. Rathbone, First Artillery, in Special Orders No. 36, March 1, 1871, from headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, is hereby extended four months, with permission to go beyond the sea.

UPON the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, First Lieutenant George M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers, is hereby assigned to the charge of the exploration, under the direction of the Chief of Engineers, of those portions of the United States territory lying south of the Central Pacific Railroad embracing parts of eastern Nevada and Arizona. The Quartermaster-General will, in addition to the transportation and supply of the escort, procure the necessary animals and forge them en route. He will furnish transportation from the East to San Francisco, and thence to the field, for the civilian assistants of Lieutenant Wheeler and the subsistence stores, instruments, etc. The Commissary-General of Subsistence will furnish the necessary rations and anti-scorbutics for the party. The Surgeon-General will furnish one medical officer and two hospital stewards, and the necessary medical stores. The Chief of Ordnance will supply horse equipments, arms, and ammunition at such points as may be necessary.

On his own application, Superintendent William A. Graham, National Cemetery at Nashville, Tennessee, is hereby honorably discharged the service of the United States, to take effect March 31, 1871.

UPON the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, the following changes in the stations and duties of officers of the Medical Department are hereby made: Surgeon James T. Ghiselin will report in person to the general commanding Department of the East for assignment to duty. Surgeon Francis L. Town is relieved from duty in the Department of Dakota, and will report in person to the general commanding Department of the East for assignment to duty. Surgeon C. C. Byrne and Assistant Surgeons H. Lippincott and G. McC. Miller are relieved from duty in the Department of the Missouri. Surgeon Byrne and Assistant Surgeon Lippincott will report in person to the general commanding Department of the East, and Assistant Surgeon Miller to the general commanding Department of the South, for assignment to duty. Assistant Surgeon Albert Hartsuff is relieved from duty in the Department of the Columbia, and will report in person to the general commanding Department of the Lakes for assignment to duty. Assistant Surgeons

John H. Janeway, J. C. G. Happersett, and John Brooke will be relieved from duty in the Department of the East when the officers assigned in this order to that department shall have reported for duty. Assistant Surgeons Janeway and Happersett will report in person to the general commanding Department of the Missouri, and Assistant Surgeon Brooke to the general commanding Department of the Columbia for assignment to duty.

The superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service will forward, under proper charge, in detachments of convenient size, two hundred recruits from those which are or may from time to time become disposable at the depot to Louisville, Kentucky, where they will be reported upon arrival to the commanding general Military Division of the South for assignment to the Seventh Cavalry.

The commanding general Military Division of the Pacific will furnish proper escort to the exploration party referred to in Special Orders No. 109, of this date, from the War Department, for the exploration of those portions of the United States territory lying south of the Central Pacific Railroad embracing points of eastern Nevada and Arizona.

Leave of absence for six months on surgeon's certificate of disability is hereby granted Second Lieutenant Stephen B. Thoburn, Twenty-third Infantry, with permission to go beyond the limits of the Military Division of the Pacific.

Leave of absence for three months is hereby granted Captain Morris Schaff, Ordnance Department.

Monday, March 20.

Paragraph 2, Special Orders No. 102, March 13, 1871, from this office, relieving First Lieutenant A. W. Hoffman, Tenth Infantry, from duty on recruiting service, and directing him to report to the superintendent General Recruiting Service, New York city, to accompany a detachment of recruits to his regiment and join his proper station, is hereby revoked.

First Lieutenant J. T. Kirkman, Tenth Infantry, is hereby relieved from duty on recruiting service. He will report in person to the superintendent General Recruiting Service, New York city, to accompany the detachment of recruits now under orders for his regiment, and join his proper station upon being relieved from duty with the detachment.

#### ARMY PERSONAL.

LEAVE of absence for twenty days was granted Captain Joseph G. Ramsay, Second Artillery, March 11.

LEAVE of absence for thirty days was granted First Lieutenant John B. Engle, Fifteenth Infantry, March 13.

COLONEL Daniel McClure, assistant paymaster-general U. S. Army, is announced as chief paymaster of the Department of the South, to take effect from March 8, 1871.

THE following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East for the week ending March 21: Lieutenant James F. Gregory, Corps of Engineers; Captain S. M. Mansfield, Corps of Engineers.

ACTING Assistant Surgeon H. S. Kilbourne, U. S. Army, was ordered March 15 to proceed from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Sill, I. T., where he will report for duty to the commanding officer of that post.

MAJOR George W. Schofield, acting assistant inspector-general, Department of the Missouri, was ordered March 13 to proceed without delay to Fort Scott and to the stations of the troops at Drywood and Limestone creeks and Girard, southeastern Kansas.

ACTING Assistant Surgeon W. O. Taylor, U. S. Army, was ordered March 16 to report for duty with the companies of the Seventh Cavalry about to embark at Fort Leavenworth for Louisville, Kentucky. Upon the arrival of said companies at Louisville, he will return to Fort Leavenworth and report in person to the medical director of this department for further instructions.

IN accordance with instructions from the War Department, dated March 3, 1871, a board of officers, to consist of Lieutenant-Colonel E. S. Otis, Twenty-second Infantry, Surgeon John Campbell, U. S. Army and Captain C. W. Miner, Twenty-second Infantry, is appointed to meet at Fort Randall, D. T., on Monday, March 20, 1871, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the claims of settlers, or squatters, on a portion of the military reservation of that post.

COLONEL Samuel D. Sturgis, Seventh Cavalry, Surgeon Glover Perin, U. S. Army, and Major James M. Moore, quartermaster U. S. Army, were appointed March 11 a board of officers to inspect and report upon the condition of the boats which may arrive at Fort Leavenworth for the transportation of the Seventh Cavalry to Louisville, Kentucky. The board will state whether or not in its opinion the boats in question are safe and seaworthy and fit for the purpose designed. The number of troops and horses which the boats can carry without overcrowding will also be stated.

A GENERAL Court-martial is appointed to meet at Fort Rice, D. T., May 10, for the trial of Captain J. H. Donovan, Seventeenth Infantry, and such other persons, as may be properly brought before it. Detail for the court: Lieutenant Colonel S. B. Hayman, Seventeenth Infantry; Major J. N. G. Whistler, Twenty-second Infantry; Surgeon C. E. Goddard, U. S. Army, Major R. E. A. Crofton, Seventeenth Infantry; Captain L. H. Sanger, Seventeenth Infantry; Captain C. E. Clarke, Seventeenth Infantry; Captain Henry Clayton, Seventeenth Infantry. First Lieutenant Horatio Potter, Jr., Seventeenth Infantry, judge-advocate.

IN order that he may acquaint himself as soon as practicable with the duties pertaining to his office as district quartermaster for the District of Montana, Major H. C. Ransom, Quartermaster's Department, was ordered March 13 to proceed within one month after reporting at Fort Shaw, M. T., to inspect all the posts in the district, with the view of ascertaining the condition of the affairs of the Quartermaster's Department



thereat, and making such recommendations for the future conduct thereof as, in his judgment, are required by the interests of the service.

WHILE General Sheridan was at Bordeaux on the 28th ult. he was the recipient of a public dinner of which a correspondent gives the following account: Consul-General Read sat at the head of the table, with Lieutenant-General Sheridan on the right and his adjutant, Brevet Brigadier-General Forsyth, on the left. M. de Franco, the Nicaraguan Minister, was *vis-à-vis* with Mr. Clinch, United States Consul at Bordeaux; and a little further down was M. Saubot-Damborger, the secretary of M. Thiers. Those nicely provided with appropriate extemporaneous remarks were disappointed by the accidental carrying out of the usual programme, "no speeches," through the informal way in which the health of the principal guest was brought out. In the ensuing silence the General quietly expressed his thanks for the honor paid him, and alluded very flatteringly to the members of the press, saying he felt more at home among them because their chief office, gathering information, resembled one of the principal duties of the arm of the service with which he was most intimate. Continuing to his neighbor of the Isthmus he added: "They have been so sharp during this war, that if they but got sight of the shadow of a fact they caught the fact too." Then the chairman regularly proposed the health of the President, gracefully coupling his name with the recognition of the French Republic. M. Saubot acknowledged the sentiment, with a cordial return for the American Union. M. de Franco spoke in a similar strain and in English, forgetting not the \$60,000,000 canal, American interests, and engineers. Toasts and compliments, compliments and toasts, passed in speedy succession. Very brief and a little one-sided they were, as no one replied directly.

THE following is a recent decision of the General of the Army:

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, March 24, 1870.

Major-General George G. Meade, commanding Military Division of the Atlantic, Philadelphia, Pa.

GENERAL: In reply to the communication forwarded by you to this office, from the commanding officer Battery D, Fifth Artillery, who requests to know whether Private John Burns, of that battery, who was arrested for desertion—\$30 being paid for his apprehension—tried and found "not guilty," but guilty of "absence without leave," must make good to the United States the \$30 paid for his apprehension, I have to inform you that the case having been submitted to the General of the Army, he decides that as Private Burns was only found guilty by general court-martial of absence without leave, the charge of \$30 against him for his arrest as a deserter is unlawful.

If this amount has been deducted from the soldier's pay, he should be remastered therefor on the next payroll of the company.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

THE New York Evening Post says: "General Belknap, Secretary of War, has conferred a favor upon Princeton College which money could not purchase. He has caused to be deposited in the museum of that institution a set of firearms which, upon examination, will show the history and improvements in such arms from the foundation of our government to the present time. Beginning with the old flint musket, the successive stages are shown, until the observer reaches the Springfield musket and the Prussian needle-gun. The collection also contains specimens of all of the arms used by the rebels during the war, and the best and latest arms of foreign countries. The collection embraces over one hundred pieces, all in perfect condition. A lecture upon this subject by a professor, with this collection before a class, will explain more in an hour than could be learned from treatises on the subject, however clearly stated. The public, as well as Princeton College, are under obligations to General Belknap for this act, which exhibits great thoughtfulness and appreciation of the means necessary to a practical education. General Belknap was graduated at Princeton about twenty-three years ago, and has constantly shown a warm interest in his alma mater. He has consented, we are informed, to deliver the annual oration before the alumni of the college in June. It is a coincidence that the address last year was delivered by the Secretary of the Navy, who was in the class preceding General Belknap."

A PARTY of citizens who had been after wood, twenty miles south from North Platte, came in on the night of March 21, and reported the appearance of fifty or sixty Indians around their camp. The Indians having set fire to the prairie around, the citizens made a hasty retreat for home, leaving their wood. No shots were fired by either party. The Indians have a large number of skins, and are anxious to come in to trade, but they are not permitted to do so. On the 12th inst. nineteen head of horses were taken by the Indians one mile west of town, and only three were recovered. Official despatches to the War Department from the headquarters of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe agency under date of February 18, report that the Osages for some time past have been trading ammunition and arms to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes, and some of the men in camp about that date carrying on the traffic reported that the Osages got their powder and lead from a trader on Pond creek, about twenty miles south of the Kansas line. Five young men of the Cheyennes had been to Texas and killed one man and stolen two horses, and this is only one of many parties that have been south of the Red river for the purpose of plunder and murder. Fourteen or fifteen Wichitas have been raiding in Texas, and it is stated that mounted Pawnees have also started south. A party of Wichitas report having met near Red river twenty-five Kiowas and four Cheyennes coming home from the neighborhood of Fort Belknap, and having in their possession five scalps. News from Fort Dodge, 18th inst., states that about fifty Indians, supposed to be Cheyennes, attacked a

wagon returning to Fort Dodge from Fort Hayes at noon on that day, two miles from Buckner Rancho, on the Pawnee Fork. Company G of the Tenth Cavalry was sent in pursuit.

#### CHANGES OF STATIONS.

The following is a list of the changes of stations of troops reported at the War Department since last report:

Company K, First Cavalry, from Camp Grant, Arizona, to San Francisco, Cal., February 17.  
Headquarters Third Cavalry established at Camp Verde, Arizona, March 3.  
Company M, First Artillery, from Fort Hamilton, New York harbor, to Plattburgh Barracks, N. Y., March 17.  
Companies C and I, Eighteenth Infantry, from Charleston, S. C., to Columbia, S. C., March 7. Ordered.

## THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

#### VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

COMMODORE R. B. Lowry visited the Navy-yard, on the 20th. He has been quite unwell, but he is much better. He is residing at New London, Conn.

THE United States steamer *Narragansett*, Commander R. W. Meade, sailed on the 20th inst. for San Francisco, direct, via the Straits of Magellan.

THE United States steamer *Ticonderoga* is now the flag-ship of Rear-Admiral Silas H. Stringham, port admiral, at anchor off the Battery, New York.

THE steamer *Gettysburg* is stripped of her boilers, and work is suspended on her. She is used as the ordinary quarters, and is commanded by Master Moffat.

THE United States steamship *Alaska* arrived at Yokohama, Japan, on February 21, to relieve the *Benicia*, ordered to join Admiral Rodgers's expedition to Corea.

THE United States steamship *Pensacola*, now in dock at San Francisco, will have to be entirely rebuilt, as in stripping her her frame was found to be almost worthless.

THE United States frigate *Franklin*, of the European Squadron, will be relieved by the *Guerriere* in the fall and return home; the *Richmond* will also return about the same time.

THE United States store-ship *Relief*, Commander G. W. Perkins, has been put in commission at the Brooklyn Navy-yard, and will be ready to sail with a cargo of supplies for the people of France.

THE *Delaware*, lately the flag-ship of the Asiatic Squadron, has recently been surveyed, and found to be utterly worthless and rotten. The *Albany* has also been surveyed, and is likewise rotten and worthless.

News has been received at the Navy Department that the Austrian frigate *Novara* has touched at the Pensacola Navy-yard, and the superintendent of the Naval Academy has been informed that she will probably visit Annapolis.

THE *Tennessee* with the San Domingo commissioners on board arrived at Key West on the 21st, five days and six hours from Kingston. She will coal and start for home in about three days. The commissioners and some of the party will probably go overland to Washington.

It is rumored that the monitors laid up at League Island will be offered for sale soon. They are becoming useless by reason of the decay of their wooden beams, and cannot be repaired except at great expense; and as there is no present or prospective use for them, it is deemed best that they be sold.

THE Senate, March 20, confirmed the appointment of Lieutenant Horace Elmer to be lieutenant-commander; Lieutenant-Commander Robert Boyd, Jr., on the retired list, to be commander on the active list; Henry C. Keene, acting volunteer lieutenant, to be lieutenant on the retired list; Mate Edw. E. Bradbury, to be master in the Navy on the retired list.

A SUMMARY Court-martial is now, and has been for the last ten days, in session at the Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y. The following officers compose the court, viz: First Lieutenant George M. Welles, senior member; Second Lieutenant S. K. Allen, member; Second Lieutenant E. T. Bradford, member; Second Lieutenant G. C. Goodloe, recorder.

THE United States war steamer *Nipsic* arrived at Aspinwall March 8 from the Atrato river. The latest news from the advance party of the expedition was that they were within six miles of the summit of the elevation, which was less than two hundred feet. All were well and confident of success. The *Nipsic* returned to the Atrato on the 15th. The survey will probably be completed by the 1st of May. The *Ossipee* arrived at Panama on the 10th, and the *Jamestown* on the 17th to relieve the *Resaca*. News from Panama of the 16th says that the survey on the Pacific side was progressing favorably. Commander Selfridge ascended to the junction of the Paya with the Syra river, but no new discoveries were made.

THE *Omaha*, having been coppered, and her shaft-hole enlarged, has been taken out of dry dock, and is receiving her machinery at the Brooklyn Navy-yard. The *Wachusett* is in dry dock. She has been almost entirely rebuilt, and has been ship-rigged. She retains her four-bladed screw. Orders have been received at the Brooklyn Navy-yard to fit out the following ships in the order in which they are named: 1. *Shamut*, to join the Brazil squadron. 2. *Wachusett*, destination unknown. 3. *Canandaigua*, do. 4. *Omaha*, do. 5. *Minnesota*, has been planked anew from the water-line up, and a new spar-deck put on. 6. *Susquehanna*, changed from paddle-wheel to screw. 7. *Florida*, formerly the *Wampanoag*, to be fitted up as originally designed, with Isherwood's geared engines. All these vessels are to be full-rigged ships, and designed to make passages under sail.

CHIEF Engineer Lawton, of the United States Navy, died on the 17th inst. at his residence at the Navy-yard,

Philadelphia. He was a native of Massachusetts, and entered the Navy as a third assistant engineer on June 24, 1850. After serving in the Coast Survey on the steamer *Water Witch*, he was, February 16, 1851, promoted to second assistant engineer, and as such served on the *Saranac* and *San Jacinto* in the Coast Survey; again on special duty at Boston, April 23, 1859, he was made a chief engineer, and was attached to the steamship *Hartford* in the West Gulf squadron in 1861. In 1862 he was on special duty at Taunton, Massachusetts; on special duty at Boston in 1864-'65; and on special duty at Wilmington, Delaware, in 1865. From 1866 to 1868 he was chief engineer of the *Hartford*, the flag-ship of the Asiatic squadron, and in 1869 he was ordered to the Philadelphia Navy-yard to relieve Chief Engineer Zeller.

McKEAN BUCHANAN, Paymaster in the United States Navy, retired, died of kidney disease at his residence in Monument Square, Charlestown, Mass., March 18, aged 71 years. The deceased was born in Wheatland, Penn., and entered the Navy August 21, 1826, retaining his active connection therewith for a term of thirty-nine years, or up to the autumn of 1862, when he was placed on the retired list. It is said that in the summer of that year he was visited by friends from Washington, whom he took on a pleasure trip down the harbor, visiting Fort Warren, when the band stationed there played "Dixie" and "Hail Columbia;" the former received the applause of the visitors, while the latter air was hissed, which circumstance becoming known at Washington was the cause of Mr. Buchanan's being retired. His brother, who entered the service about the same time McKean did, was a commodore in the Southern navy, and was taken prisoner when Mobile was captured by Farragut. Deceased was an uncle of McKean Buchanan, the actor, and great-uncle of Miss Buchanan, the actress. He leaves a wife and son in Charlestown, and a married daughter in Washington, D. C.

LAST year the United States determined to send an expedition to Corea for the purpose of securing a treaty for the protection of shipwrecked mariners. It was deemed advisable to defer its departure until the present time. We now learn by way of San Francisco that the United States steamer *Alaska* arrived at Yokohama February 10 to relieve the *Benicia*, ordered to join the expedition under Admiral Rodgers for the Corea. The force is to consist of three or more war vessels, including the flag-ship. Mr. F. F. Low, minister to China, is charged with the duty of negotiating the treaty, and will be accompanied by Mr. George F. Seward, consul-general at Shanghai, who is known to have great experience in Oriental character, and who has also made a study of the question. Mr. Seward goes by direct instructions from Secretary Fish. The first object of the mission is to obtain information of the loss or destruction of the American schooner *General Sherman*, and of the fate of the crew, reported to have been murdered by the natives. If the reports prove correct, then indemnity or satisfaction is to be enforced. The instructions given to the minister and the admiral contemplate the possible use of force; but if an extreme emergency should arise, the former solely is to decide whether such a course be advisable or not.

NOVEMBER 15, 1866, Acting Ensign A. J. Kane, of the Navy, was summarily dismissed the service of the United States without trial. The charges preferred against him by Mr. Peck, United States minister to Hayti, were to the effect that he had received \$25,000 in gold from General Fabre Geffard, then President of Hayti, for delivering up certain documents which had been intrusted to him by a prominent rebel against the Haytian republic, the delivery of which, it is stated, saved President Geffard and his cabinet from assassination. It was said that the documents contained the details of a scheme to overthrow the government by assassinating the President and his cabinet and burning the city of Port-au-Prince. The case having been brought before Congress some time ago, the Committees on Naval Affairs of the Senate and the House reported in Kane's favor. The order of dismissal has been declared illegal, by reason of its being in violation of the fifth section of the act of Congress of July 13, 1866, which provides that no officer of the Army or Navy shall be dismissed the service in time of peace except by sentence of a court-martial. By the order just issued from the Navy Department, and based upon Kane's resignation, he receives full pay and allowances for the past four years. "This case," says Secretary Robeson, "is reopened by the Secretary of the Navy, and it being considered that the dismissal of Mr. Kane by the order dated November 15, 1866, was illegal and wrong in form, substance, and effect at the date when the same was issued, and therefore void, the said order and the said dismissal are hereby declared to have been of no legal effect and void, and the same are abrogated and the within resignation is accepted."

ADVICES from Callao, Peru, February 19, state that the United States steamer *Ossipee*, Commander John H. Russell, which has been so long expected, arrived there the morning previous, eighty-three days from San Francisco, via Guayaquil, where she stopped three days. The *Mohican* having preceded her in attending to some public business at that point, further delay was unnecessary. The *Ossipee* made such slow speed under sail that her provisions ran short, and it became necessary to steam from Guayaquil to Callao. When she anchored there, it is said she had but two or three days' bread left. She has now a two-bladed propeller, and seems to be even slower than before the change. Commodore McDougall will make her his flag-ship, and Commander J. N. Miller will relieve Commander Russell, who returns to the United States. The *Mohican*, Commodore Low, arrived at Callao the 11th instant, thirty days from Guayaquil, seven hundred miles up the coast, and, after refitting, sailed on the 16th for San Francisco, via the Gulf of Tehuantepec and Mexican coast. As the *Mohican* left her anchorage, the mail steamer from the north came in with orders for her to tow the *Jamestown*,



which vessel has been patched up, to Panama for duty with the Darien surveying expedition. The *Ossipee* will probably attempt this, and the two ships leave about the 22d instant. They should reach Panama by March 10.

THE *Commercial Advertiser* says: "We may soon hear of some work by our Navy in the Chinese waters. Yokohama advices to the 23d of February state that the *Benicia* is ordered to join Admiral Rodgers's expedition to Corea. It is nearly a year since the Admiral sailed hence for China and Japan in the *Colorado*, and during the interval we have heard of him mainly in connection with Mr. Seward. The *Colorado* left here with an unusual armament. Stowed away in her ponderous hull were several batteries of field pieces, and a variety of munitions more serviceable on land than on the sea. It was no secret on the ship that all this meant business, and it was generally believed that the inhabitants of Corea and the Archipelago of the Yellow Sea were to be ministered unto after a warlike fashion. It was believed that France, England, Russia, and Prussia would join in the expedition, as each and every civilized power has a first-class grievance against Corea, the inhabitants of which country are pirates of the worst sort. No one escapes them. They capture a ship, pillage it, burn it, and kill all the crew. There is a dreadful account of the "missing" along the shores of the peninsula that overhangs the Yellow Sea and faces Japan, and hundreds of gallant sailors have lost their lives there. It is full time to seek revenge and to teach these Buddhists that there is some better trade than piracy. Besides, Corea is an unknown land, and there is a pardonable and natural curiosity to make an exploration there. The Coreans of the interior are agriculturists. They are somewhat advanced in manufactures. The people trade only with China and Japan, to which countries they pay tribute, though they have a despotic government of their own, somewhat like that of China. They have an army of 640,000 men and a navy of 200 vessels. It is against this force that Admiral "Jack" Rodgers proposes to proceed with his three or four vessels, and of course nothing short of a glorious victory will be won. Our sailors, with the modern improvements in firearms, will teach those junk warriors a lesson they have long deserved to be taught, and slightly confuse the disciples of Confucius, who are not altogether correct in their views of *neum* and *tum* and their respect for human life. It would seem from the news that Admiral Rodgers was going, solitary and alone, to set this ball in motion. The war in Europe has prevented or postponed the co-operation of the squadrons of the European powers in those seas, and some of them would not work very harmoniously together. Indeed, so far as the French and Prussians are concerned, union is impossible, and England and Russia are not altogether in accord. In February there were sixteen Prussian vessels blockaded at Yokohama, and one German ship transferred to a British owner was captured [outside of Shanghai in January by a French war ship, and held by her in spite of the protest of the English admiral. Our admiral will have to extinguish Corea without European aid."

## NAVY GAZETTE.

### REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

#### ORDERED.

MARCH 15.—Lieutenant Charles M. Anthony, to the receiving ship *Vandalia*.  
Masters Edward H. Gheen, Willis Swift, W. H. Reeder, Frederick Singer, Albert Foree, and Andrew Dunlap, Jr., to signal duty at Washington, D. C., April 1.  
Paymaster H. M. Heiskell, to the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, April 1.  
MARCH 17.—Assistant Paymaster Robert Dickey, as assistant to the paymaster at the Navy-yard, Washington, D. C.  
MARCH 18.—Commander S. P. Quackenbush, to equipment duty at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., on the 22d inst.  
Assistant Surgeon Charles K. Yancey, to the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia.  
Assistant Surgeon Joseph H. Kidder, to examination for promotion.  
MARCH 20.—Lieutenant-Commander Horace E. Mullan, to equipment duty at the Navy-yard, New York.  
Lieutenant Charles F. Arnold, to the receiving ship *New York*.  
MARCH 21.—Boatswain Edward B. Bell, and Carpenter Joseph G. Myers, to the receiving ship *Vermont*, at New York.

#### DETACHED.

MARCH 15.—Commander R. F. Bradford, from the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and ordered as inspector of ordnance on special duty.  
Master J. W. Miller, from the *Narragansett*, and ordered to the *Shawmut*.  
Paymaster James Fulton, from the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, on the 1st of April, and ordered to settle accounts.  
MARCH 16.—Commander Montgomery Seward, from the command of the late steamer *Saginaw*, and placed on waiting orders.  
Lieutenant-Commander Charles L. Franklin, from the command of the *Ajax*, and placed on waiting orders.  
Lieutenant Z. L. Tanner, from the receiving ship *Vermont*, and ordered to the *Narragansett*.  
MARCH 17.—Lieutenant-Commander T. F. Jewell, from the Naval Observatory, and ordered to the Naval Academy.  
Lieutenant-Commander C. F. Schmitz, from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the Naval Station, Mound City, Ill.  
MARCH 18.—Commander Milton Haxtun, from the command of the *Onward*, and placed on waiting orders.  
Passed Assistant Paymaster George H. Read, from the *Saginaw*, and ordered to settle accounts.  
Assistant Surgeon Charles U. Gravatt, from the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, and ordered to the *Pineae*, at Key West, Fla.  
MARCH 20.—Chief Engineer Charles E. De Valin, from the *Dictator*, and placed on waiting orders.  
MARCH 21.—Lieutenant Samuel W. Very, from the *Onward*, and placed on waiting orders.  
Midshipman E. S. Richman, from the *Brooklyn*, and granted two months' leave.

#### ORDERS REVOKED.

MARCH 15.—The orders of Master Daniel Delehanty, [to the *Shawmut*, and ordered to the *Relief*.

#### RESIGNED.

MARCH 21.—Lieutenant-Commander Ira Harris, Jr.

#### LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending March 18, 1871:

Thomas Fish, seaman (extra), February 20, U. S. steamer *Tennessee*, off St. Domingo.  
Richmond Daggett, late an acting ensign, March 13, Naval Hospital, New York.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### OLD FORT CALHOUN.

BY A. G. BRACKETT.

THE cottonwood's broad shadow, the wild vines gnarled arms,  
Beside the dark wide river, with its many eddying charms—  
The thickets of witch-hazel, the dogwood's blossoms white,  
Grow near the rapid current, which sparkles in the light.

Upon the broad green plateau, hard by the river's side,  
High raised above the bottom, where stretched the turbid tide,  
The battlements of Calhoun majestically arose;  
Where now the weed, and bramble, and thorny locust grows.

Then on that pleasant greensward, full many a warrior came  
To tell of fights and forays and the stirring hunt for game.  
The squaws with bright red blankets, the agile girls and boys  
Then played beside the bastions, and shared each other's joys.

Here came the lonely trapper from off the prairies wide,  
His only true companion, his dark-eyed Indian bride.  
Here, too, the youthful soldier, then on the frontier far,  
Was learning his profession, the red-dyed trade of war.

Those bastions now are lonely, we hear no soldier's tread,  
The soldiers and the warriors are sleeping with the dead.  
How dreary is the night wind, how filled with shadows cold—  
Shades of the departed who gathered here of old.

It seems as if those spirits now hovered near the scene,  
Amid the snows of winter, amid the summer's green.  
Now only crumbling brick-piles, where once the chimneys stood,  
Beside deserted cellars, above the dark green wood.

Such now is old Fort Calhoun upon the Council Bluffs,  
Beside the broad Missouri on which the steamer puffs.  
Old ruins! rich in honor! mementoes of the past,  
Now bathed in floods of sunshine, now trembling in the blast.

Ere long Nebraska's children shall glory in thy name,  
And crown thy hoary ramparts with the laurel wreath of fame.  
We leave thee in thy slumber, so like the "sheeted dead,"  
Away among the hillocks, 'mid thy legends old and dread.

### A QUESTION OF TACTICS ANSWERED.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: As no one seems to be able to solve the question in tactics proposed in the JOURNAL of March 11, I give the following tables showing how fifteen men can be marched seven times, three abreast, without ever allowing two to march more than once in the same line:

1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9	10 11 12	13 14 15
4 8 12	2 9 11	2 8 10	2 13 15	
5 10 15	3 12 15	3 13 14	3 5 6	
6 11 13	6 8 14	4 11 15	4 9 13	
7 9 14	7 10 13	5 9 13	7 8 15	
	1 10 11	1 13 13	1 14 15	
	2 12 14	2 5 7	2 4 6	
	3 5 6	3 8 11	3 9 10	
	4 9 13	4 10 14	5 8 13	
	7 8 15	6 9 15	7 11 12	

### A CANDID OPINION OF ARIZONA.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Now after five years of constant hard service in Arizona's dreary desert waste, it is rumored that Troop K, First Cavalry, is about to change its present condition for a better. We hope that Camp Halleck, Nevada, is our destination; but wherever we go, the change of station will be an agreeable break in our monotonous life, even if we fail to improve our position thereby. How sad we feel in leaving our favorite and faithful chargers none but a cavalry-man can know. The interest and affection which the cavalry-man learns to feel for his horse, and the horse for his rider, is well known. We are unhappy in losing the faithful beasts who have shared our toils and for whom we have so strong a tie of sympathy, but behind the reluctance of sentiment, in abandoning our horses, is the unpleasant prospect of marching on foot 300 miles or more across a desert waste. Why are we deprived of our horses at this time when we need them most? It is a wonder the government does not load every cavalry soldier with a "long Tom" and knapsack and done with it! After marching from Drum Barracks, Cal., to Camp Crittenden, A. T., a distance of 700 miles, we thought what a grand and glorious thing it was to be a cavalry-man; but this delusion is dispelled. Our quarters are simply abominable, and unfit for man or beast. Still the inspectors general and high officials cling to the original idea, "Good enough for Arizona." Are they worthy of the soldier in the service of the United States? If Arizona is so detested abroad, I cannot see why the soldier who is so unhappy as to be exiled here should be associated with the hateful region and be detested likewise.

GASHUNTZ.

CAMP GRANT, Arizona.

### INSURING ARMY OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In your issue of the 11th inst. I have noticed some interesting correspondence under the head of "Army and Navy Insurance." In one of the letters, that of General Gibbon to Captain C. I. Wilson, occur the following passages: "A perusal of your circular impressed me very favorably. . . . In fact, it at first struck me as too liberal, which we do not want if the security and certainty of the policy are thereby endangered. It may possibly be that these liberal terms may be justified by the fact that the increased risk in the time of war (not a very probable event now in our country) may be counterbalanced by the slight mortality in the time of peace. I should like to know how this is, and if it is a fact, upon what data it is founded." These are sensible remarks, and show the writer to be a man accustomed to look below the surface of things. The circular referred to in the above letter is quoted by General Meade as permitting the insured Army or Navy officers "to perform any duty or travel anywhere in time of peace or war without invalidating their policies, or the payment of any additional money beyond the ordinary premiums." The meaning of this I presume to be, that the company does not charge any extra premium for the extra risk incurred in actual warfare. This must be the meaning of the circular, because General Meade's interpretation of it in his letter to General Ewing sets forth "that you

make no distinction between officers and any others insuring, and make no extra charge for the peculiar exigencies and risks incident to their profession."

A work "On the Military Statistics of the United States of America," published by the able actuary and statistician, Dr. E. B. Elliott, who was the delegate of the American Statistical Association to the International Statistical Congress at Berlin in 1863, gives some interesting figures on the subject—figures whose accuracy may be relied upon. The doctor divides into two periods of nine and six months the interval between June, 1861, and August, 1862 (inclusive), giving the experience of mortality in each period separately.

In the period from June, 1861, to February, 1862, inclusive, when comparatively little fighting was done, the mortality among commissioned officers was as follows, for each 1,000 men, the rates being reduced to the basis of a year as the unit of time: From wounds, 11; from disease, 22; total mortality, 33.

During the remaining period from March to August, 1862, inclusive, the number of deaths per 1,000, reduced to the basis of a year again, was—From wounds, 48; from disease, 42; total mortality, 90.

The above large increase in mortality was due to the fact that during the second period more active operations were entered upon by the Union armies, as is evidenced by comparing increase in deaths from wounds—48 over 11, or nearly three and one-half times as many as in the first period.

The full significance of the above figures will be understood by comparison with the ordinary mortality of insured lives—among whom may be included, Army officers in time of peace. The number of those dying at the age of 41 is 10 out of each 1,000. Average number among Army officers in time of actual war, say 80—difference 70.

It may be urged that the above death rate will be lessened in any future war by the improved hospital facilities and other considerations. Admitting that this may be the case, we will give the company the full benefit of the doubt, and assume that the number of deaths per 1,000 in the next war will be only 50.

Now for figures. Let us assume that a company insure the lives now of 200 officers at the average age of 35, in the life plan, for \$10,000 each. Annual premium per \$1,000, \$26.38. In our illustration we will assume the expenses of the company at 15 per cent. of the premium receipts, and the average interest on investment at 8 per cent. During the next five years the usual mortality is experienced, and the policy-holders, being in a separate class, receive the extra savings from surplus payments in the form of dividends. At the end of the fifth year a war breaks out. At the beginning of the war the company holds the legal reserve or the present value of the liability in each surviving policy (189 of the original 200 are yet alive).

The reserve under the laws of Missouri or New York would be.....	\$100,548 00
Add to this 189 premiums of \$263 80 each.....	49,858 00
Deduct for expenses 15 per cent. of premiums.....	\$150,406 20
Add interest at 8 per cent.....	7,478 73
During the year nine persons have died to whose heirs the company pay.....	\$142,927 47
Balance remaining.....	11,454 20
Legal reserve.....	\$154,381 67
Balance remaining.....	90,000 00
Deficiency at end of first year of war.....	\$64,381 67
Going on for the second year, we have balance remaining from last year.....	\$64,381 67
180 premiums of \$263 80 each.....	47,484 00
Deduct 15 per cent. for expenses.....	\$111,845 67
Add 8 per cent. interest.....	7,122 00
During the year nine have died, claiming.....	\$104,723 67
Leaving a balance of.....	6,377 85
Reserve which the company should have.....	\$113,100 92
Deficiency at end of second year of war.....	90,000 00
At the beginning of the third year we have balance remaining from last year.....	\$23,100 92
171 premiums of \$263 80 each.....	45,109 80
Deduct for expenses.....	\$68,210 72
Add interest, 8 per cent.....	6,768 47
Eight deaths have occurred.....	\$61,444 25
	\$66,359 79
	80,000 00
	\$13,640 21

Here the company have too little by \$13,640 21 to pay the heirs of its dead policy-holders, and if we add the legal reserve which it should have as an offset for its future liability to its living members, i. e., \$126,325, we find it hopelessly insolvent and owing \$139,965 21 as the result of its "liberal terms," and "making no extra charge for the peculiar exigencies and risks incident to their (the officers') profession."

The same rule which applies when 200 officers are taken with policies of \$10,000 each will apply with equal force to 100 officers with \$5,000 insurance to each.

It must not be understood by the foregoing that any doubt is thrown upon the reliability of the St. Louis Mutual; on the contrary, the writer is honestly of the opinion that the obligations of the company would be strictly met, even in the event of a war, provided the volume of that class of business was not very large, as in that case the extra losses might more than counterbalance the surplus received from all sources and thus endanger the very existence of the company.

It seems to me, however, that the circular before referred to must have been issued without the knowledge of the officers of the company, as the following is in direct conflict with the provisions of section 17 of the charter of the St. Louis Mutual: "The policies in the military branch to be entitled to all dividends arising



from that branch, being more or less than the dividends on other policies," etc.

Under the charter an officer would be entitled to the same dividends as an ordinary policy-holder—no more, no less.

Apologizing for trespassing so much on your space, I am very respectfully yours,  
F. O. DAVENPORT, Lieutenant-Commander U. S. N.  
DETROIT, February 24, 1871.

[We cannot doubt that the question here raised, as to the danger that a company may risk its solvency by undertaking to insure officers of the Army at the rate paid by civilians, has received the careful attention of the St. Louis company. We must leave them, however, to reply to our correspondent, who, it is but just to say, announces himself as the agent of another insurance company, having a similar project in view. The statistics given above are, we presume, correct as to the total number of men engaged during the late war, but it is not just to apply them in this connection to officers of the Regular Army, among whom the proportion of deaths to the numbers on the Army list was less than one-third of the ratio named. In 1861 the deaths among Regular Army officers were 25; in 1862, 91; in 1863, 102; in 1864, 96; in 1865, 11. Regular officers are more accustomed to the mode of life incident to war and are better able to take care of themselves, which will be seen to be an important consideration when we remember how much greater is the mortality due to disease than to wounds. According to the statistics compiled by General Shanks, during the war of the Rebellion one officer in forty-nine died of disease in the service, while of the enlisted men one in seventeen died among the whites, and one in seven among the negroes. In our war, too, the Regular officers rose at once to the higher positions in the Volunteer Army, as they will in the case of another war, and the risks of war are known to decrease as the officers rise in rank. We think a consideration of these two facts will lead Mr. Davenport to essentially modify his argument.—ED. JOURNAL.]

#### SOME RADICAL SUGGESTIONS OFFERED.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Will you permit me to lay before your readers a brief discussion and a few suggestions touching the rank and file of our Army?

Let me first state what I understand are or ought to be the

#### OBJECTS OF A STANDING ARMY.

These are: 1. To guard and preserve the forts, arsenals, and other public property of the United States. 2. To aid executive officers in enforcing the revenue and other laws of the United States. 3. To keep order and aid on a State or ceremonial occasion in rendering such honors as in general are thought due to distinguished persons and occasions. 4. To aid the civil authorities against mobs and sudden rebellions, in executing State laws in particular localities, where those laws are not sustained by public opinion. 5. To protect our frontier against savages and render travel among them safe. 6. To constitute a nucleus around which a much larger army may be formed in case of a dangerous war. 7. To provide each section of the country with a large number of disciplined men, accustomed to Army life, who can, on an emergency, be called from their civil avocations and in a few weeks furnish the Government with an army not of raw recruits, but of veteran and reliable soldiers.

For securing the first three objects named, it is evident an army is not essential; but when it exists, it is just as evident, detachments from it constitute the most convenient, suitable, and economical means.

For the fourth, an army will be essential till all caste feeling subsides, and all the people become so intelligent and moral that a majority in any community will always sustain law, if for no other reason than merely because it is law. Until that time, the authorities will occasionally need a machine that will certainly obey, and that will have or will manifest no feeling in the matter. A detachment, no matter how small, of a well disciplined army is such a machine.

History shows that with such machines in the hands of ambitious men, wielding arbitrary and unconstitutional power, the liberties of a people are not always safe. But our American people are already sufficiently jealous of a standing army to be always on their guard against the possibility of any danger from that quarter, and I propose that the Army shall be so constituted as to take away even the possibility.

For securing the fifth, no substitute for an army can be devised. And those who reflect on the frequent reports of disturbances from Indians, on the wholesome effect of fear among savages, and on the immense territory we profess to hold in subjection, may well question whether our small Army is at all adequate to the work assigned it.

The importance of an army for securing the sixth object no one will deny who knows the invaluable services ours rendered in that way during the Rebellion and in all our wars.

But the seventh object named is, in my opinion, the most important of all to be secured. As the world now moves, no nation can hope to long maintain its independence that is not able to fight for that independence. It was once thought necessary to keep up great standing armies ready to do this fighting. But Prussia has taught the world a new lesson, has taught that a whole people can be trained for war, while the great body of them may be engaged in productive pursuits until the moment of greatest need.

It is doubtful, however, whether our people could ever

be induced to submit to the stringent measures of the Prussians for the accomplishing of the object; and perhaps their plan is not the best for a free people, even if it could be adopted. With a free people every burden must, as far as possible, be voluntarily borne. The Army as now constituted can do little or nothing toward promoting this object. I doubt, indeed, whether any member of Congress, in its legislation touching the Army, ever contemplated it as a school in which the people could be educated for defending themselves. But why may not this be the primary object of keeping up a regular army in time of peace?

#### THINGS AS THEY ARE.

A correct view of things as they are is needed before improvements can be wisely proposed. The Army, so far as its commissioned officers are concerned, needs no further change than that which might gradually come from an improvement in the rank and file. West Point Academy has done its work well, and the school in the field has not only supplemented the teaching of West Point, but has turned out many first-class officers purely of its own training. So that our people may well be satisfied with this portion of the Army. It is indeed well thought of, and there are not many parents who would not be pleased to see their sons enrolled in the corps of the U. S. Army officers.

But it is not so with the rank and file. There is hardly a parent who would permit his son, on whom he builds his hopes, to enlist as a private. During the war of the Rebellion, when patriotic motives and high rewards prompted, it was of course different. But I speak of the Regular Army as it was before that war, and as it is in a measure now.

Should a son while a minor contrive to get into the Army, his parents would set earnestly to work to get him out; and should they fail, they would consider him as almost lost to themselves and to every fair prospect in life.

Is there not a cause for this prejudice? There the young and old are thrown promiscuously together, where they have abundant leisure for corrupting each other, and where there is no special stimulus for making either moral or intellectual improvement.

Some men will read, think, and improve themselves under the most difficult circumstances; and it is true there are in the ranks many good men—a few cases of consistent, robust piety, and a larger amount of intelligence than is usually found among the same number of men in the ordinary walks of life.

But nearly every soldier will say, "The Army is a hard place for morals, and no place at all for religion." Hundreds never for years hear the name of God except in the way of profanity, and that too, it may be, when divine service is held every Sunday within gunshot of their quarters.

It is well known that a deterioration in morals tends powerfully to military demoralization. But many officers seem to think a soldier's moral character is peculiarly his own, for which he alone is responsible to his Maker, and for the protection and improvement of which they are not at all accountable. But if they felt their responsibility ever so much, it is not evident to me how they could do much toward discharging it, in connection with the present systems of recruiting the Army and securing obedience.

So far as I know, the system for securing strict obedience in our Army, with the exception of a few humanitarian modifications, is the same that has existed in all armies from time immemorial. Its basis is fear.

There was a time when the rod was used in nearly every school for extracting good lessons, keeping order, and restraining the propensities of wayward youth. But now a more excellent way has been discovered and introduced.

The system of fear is very simple and easy of execution, and hence commends itself strongly to those who dislike trouble and look more to immediate than to ultimate results. But has not the time come when we should most regard the ultimate effects of discipline in our Army? The "guard house" and its accompaniments cannot, of course, be dispensed with, any more than the rod as a last resort can be dispensed with in a well governed school. But cannot hope be made in a great measure to take the place of fear? Why may not rank be introduced among privates, and superior pay, promotion, honors, and privileges be within the certain reach of every one who may strive for them? Why may not every young recruit hope to become a general just as much as every school-boy may hope to be a president? And why may not a soldier's discharge, in addition to its present record, contain a testimonial to his moral character and intellectual attainments, which, like a college diploma, shall aid him in securing desirable civil employment?

If it should be known that young men could spend five years in the Army without injury to their morals, and come out improved physically and intellectually and with \$300 or \$400 in their pockets, there would not long be any lack of recruits, nor would there be among the people any disposition to cut down the numbers of such a school to the lowest possible minimum.

At present motives for improvement are wanting. Stern law and its penalties are not sufficient to rightly cultivate character. A man may be a prisoner for the infraction of law to-day and guarding prisoners to-morrow. I have, indeed, known a prisoner in a small command released from the guard house before the expiration of his penalty, on purpose to go on duty as a guard over his comrades of the previous day. Such a proceeding would be a strange anomaly anywhere else but in the military service; and it forcibly illustrates the entire separation between morals and strictly military duties.

Whether there can be much change, if any, for the better, while our present recruiting system is kept up, is extremely doubtful. This system succeeds best in our large cities. It gathers in some who have a genuine passion for military life; others, especially from our foreign element, who are merely seeking employment; and others still from a class that, by indulgence in intemper-

ance and other vicious habits, have rendered themselves incapable of self-government and of success in any other business.

Not a few enlist under an assumed name, either to conceal their antecedents or to cut themselves off from home influences and restraints and be free to follow the bent of their own inclinations.

A home reputation has been always found a powerful incentive to a soldier's good conduct both in war and in peace. But what can we expect from men cut loose from every tie, adrift alone in the world, with no object to aim at except present pleasure, and with nothing to fear except the vigor of the arm that is immediately over them? No wonder the guard house, however small the command, is seldom empty, but contains on an average ten per cent. of the whole force, either as prisoners or guards, thus rendering the duties of good men more onerous and repulsive. No wonder that desertions are frequently occurring to the vexation of the officers and the loss of the Government, and that of detachments of recruits sent to regiments on the frontiers a large percentage often fails to reach its destination, and that of the troops serving on the frontiers large squads have been known to desert at once. Every deserter is, of course, guilty of perjury. But moral obligations seem to amount to very little with such men. And as we recede from the period when soldiering was patriotic and honorable above every other employment, may we not reasonably expect that our present recruiting system will furnish a still larger proportion of recruits from this very class?

Believing this state of things can be remedied, and the primary object of a regular army secured, I offer the following somewhat radical suggestions:

1. Abolish the present recruiting system as costly, uncertain, and unsatisfactory.

2. Allow each State the privilege of putting into the Regular Army a number of its young men, between eighteen and twenty-five years of age, in proportion to its population, say 1,000 for every 1,000,000. If volunteers from each Congressional district should not offer themselves in sufficient numbers, let a draft be made to supply the deficiency, but let no substitutes be taken except such as belong to the district, so that at the expiration of the service the State might hope to receive back its men prepared to render valuable service in its militia.

3. Let the time of enlistment be as now five years or more, and let none be allowed to re-enlist except a few non-commissioned officers and musicians and the men now in the service, and the last only into certain designated regiments, with a view to their ultimate consolidation into particular companies and assignment to duties most suitable to their age and long service.

4. Divide the men into two or more grades, the lowest to be entered by all, and be a probationary one for six months, and not to be left then by any one who has been known guilty, within the three previous months, of disobedience, lying, drunkenness, or debauchery; the highest grade to be only attainable on evidence, satisfactory to the commander, of good moral character, and of certain prescribed intellectual attainments; the highest also to entitle the holders to \$4 a month more pay, to all the appointments as non-commissioned officers, and to security against being reduced to a lower grade unless by sentence of a court-martial.

5. As a general rule, require no work to be done by the men except such as appropriately belongs to a soldier, and let citizens be employed as teamsters, mechanics, and laborers.

6. Let education be made compulsory, by requiring all who hereafter enter the Army to spend at least two hours, under the eye of a teacher, each week-day in study, whenever the exigencies of the service will possibly allow it. And let all not on actual duty for the day be required to attend some place of public worship every Sunday, the choice of place being left with the men when practicable.

7. Let West Point Academy be open to every one till he is twenty-five years of age, provided he shall have served four years in the Army, can pass the requisite examination, and his district has not already furnished its quota. Let the requirements for entering the Academy be raised so as to embrace all the principal studies now pursued in the first year, and the entrance of a cadet depend not on his nomination by a Congressman, but on his success in distancing all competitors from his district in the examination. And if in the trial two appear equal and one has been in the Army, let the appointment be given to this one. In fine, let every measure be taken at West Point so as to favor an Army applicant, and so that hereafter a youth ambitious of becoming an officer shall feel it his interest to begin by first taking his place in the ranks. A commander should be able, to give leave of absence to any soldier of four years' service who he thinks can pass the required examination, and if he prove successful to give him a discharge.

8. Let the pay be such that a man who should lose nothing by fines could leave the service with at least \$300 in his pocket, made up of a bounty and one-fourth of his monthly pay reserved, on interest, by the Government as a restraint on desertion and bad conduct.

The above suggestions are made in contemplation of an army of young men who are to finish their term of service by the time men usually become settled in life. Young men are more easily trained than old ones, and for all the purposes of an army, in time of peace, and perhaps in time of war, are just as good. Taken at the age proposed, they can best be spared from productive labor. And having but a definite time to serve, they can never acquire the sad feeling, so often expressed by old soldiers, that they are fit for nothing else but to be in the Army.

SENEX.

ARTHUR HARVEY, quartermaster-sergeant of the Ninth Infantry, has been sentenced by the United States District Court at St. Louis to one year's hard labor in the Missouri penitentiary, and to pay the cost of prosecution. He was charged with forging paymaster's certificates, and pleaded guilty to the indictment found against him.



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## THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

SOCIETY OF THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15, 1871.

To the Members, Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

The fifth regular meeting of the Society will be held in Cincinnati on the 6th and 7th days of April next, convening at 10 o'clock A. M.

Colonel John W. Noble, of the Third Iowa Cavalry, will deliver the annual address, and suitable arrangements for the meeting will be made by the local committee.

Every officer who has at any time served with honor in the Army and Department of the Tennessee is by the constitution entitled to a membership; and all such, as well as members of kindred societies, are cordially invited to attend.

General W. T. SHERMAN, President.

L. M. DATTON, Rec. Secretary.

A. HICKENLOOPER, Cor. Secretary.

## NEW LOAN OF THE UNITED STATES. CIRCULAR PROPOSALS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 28, 1871.

Public notice is hereby given that books will be opened on the 6th day of March next, in this country and in Europe, for subscriptions to the national loan, under the act approved July 14, 1870, entitled "An act to authorize the refunding of the national debt," and the act in amendment thereof, approved January 20, 1871.

The proposed loan comprises three classes of bonds, namely:

First. Bonds to the amount of five hundred millions of dollars, payable in coin, at the pleasure of the United States, after ten years from the date of their issue, and bearing interest, payable quarterly in coin, at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

Second. Bonds to the amount of three hundred millions of dollars, payable in coin, at the pleasure of the United States, after fifteen years from the date of their issue, and bearing interest, payable quarterly in coin, at the rate of four and a half per cent. per annum.

Third. Bonds to the amount of seven hundred millions of dollars, payable in coin, at the pleasure of the United States, after thirty years from the date of their issue, and bearing interest, payable quarterly in coin, at the rate of four per cent. per annum.

Subscriptions to the loan will have preference in the following order, namely:

First. Subscriptions that may be first made for five per cent. bonds to the amount of two hundred millions of dollars; of which there will be reserved, for twenty days, one-half for subscribers in this country and one-half for subscribers in foreign countries.

Second. Subscriptions for equal amounts of each class of bonds.

Third. Subscriptions for equal amounts of bonds bearing interest at the rate of four and a half per cent., and of bonds bearing interest at the rate of five per cent.

Fourth. Subscriptions for any five per cent. bonds that may not be subscribed for in the preceding classes.

When a subscription is made, the subscriber will be required to deposit two per cent. of the amount thereof in coin or currency of the United States, or in bonds of the class to be exchanged, to be accounted for by the Government when the new bonds are delivered; and payment may be made either in coin or in bonds of the United States known as FIVE-TWENTY BONDS, at their par value.

The coin received in payment will be applied to the redemption of five-twenty bonds, and the debt of the United States will not be increased by this loan.

The bonds will be registered or issued with coupons, as may be desired by subscribers. Registered bonds will be issued of the denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000; and coupon bonds of each denomination except the last two. The interest will be payable in the United States, at the office of the Treasurer, any assistant treasurer, or designated depository of the Government, quarterly, on the first days of February, May, August, and November, in each year.

The bonds of the several classes aforesaid, and the interest thereon, are exempt from the payment of all taxes or dues of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form by or under State, municipal, or local authority.

After maturity, the bonds last issued will be first redeemed, by classes and numbers, as may be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

The bonds will be issued at the United States Treasury, but the agents for the negotiation of the loan in Europe are authorized to make arrangements with subscribers for the transmission of the bonds to the agents through whom subscriptions may be received.

Subscribers in the United States will receive the new bonds of the agents with whom the subscriptions are made.

In the United States the national banks are authorized to receive subscriptions, and subscriptions may also be made at the office of the Treasurer of the United States, or of any assistant treasurer, or the designated depositories at Buffalo, N. Y.; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Ky.; Mobile, Ala.; and Pittsburgh, Penn.

P. S.—This Department and its own loan agents are now ready to receive the United States five-twenty bonds and to pay the gold interest thereon to May 1, from which date the new bonds will bear interest. A scrip certificate, calling for the bonds on the 1st May, will be issued at once in exchange for the old bonds.

GEO. S. BOUTWELL,  
Secretary of Treasury.

**TRANSFER.—A CAPTAIN OF CAVALRY** (colored regiment), well up on the list, wishes to transfer into Infantry. Address M. C. S., care ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

**A CAPTAIN OF INFANTRY**, of appointment of July 28, 1868, would like to transfer with a Captain of Cavalry. Liberal inducements offered. Address CAPTAIN, at this office.

**MAJOR OF CAVALRY WISHES TO EXCHANGE** into Infantry or Staff. Infantry preferred. Address A. B., ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

**A SECOND LIEUTENANT OF INFANTRY** stationed at one of the best posts in the Department of Dakota, wishes to effect a transfer. Address CESAR, Office ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

**TRANSFER.—AN INFANTRY CAPTAIN** in one of the oldest and best white regiments, serving at a most agreeable post in the East, is desirous of negotiating a transfer with a Captain of Cavalry (white), of date July, 1868. Liberal inducements offered. Address INFANTRY, care of ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

**TRANSFER.—A CAPTAIN OF INFANTRY** (white regiment), well up on the list and stationed at a most desirable post, wishes to transfer into the artillery or cavalry. Address MIAMI, care ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

OFFICE OF THE  
ARMY AND NAVY COMMERCIAL AGENCY,  
Nos. 320 and 322 BROADWAY,  
P. O. BOX 3,051.  
New York, March 16, 1871.

THE ATTENTION OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY is respectfully invited to the business circulars of this Agency, recently addressed to them, and now being distributed from the War Department at Washington. In case any officer should fail to receive the circulars referred to, we shall be happy to supply a copy upon application therefore.

The business arrangements of our Agency are now complete, and we are fully prepared to execute any orders intrusted to us with carefulness and despatch. We intend at an early day to furnish commanding officers of companies with a special circular, calling attention to our facilities for supplying certain goods constantly required for the use of their commands, samples of which we shall forward to them in the hope of receiving their orders. We also beg to inform our friends that in addition to supplying every variety of merchandise, we have perfected arrangements with responsible bankers of this city, which will enable the Agency to transact, in a safe and satisfactory manner, any business of that nature which may require attention. We will buy and sell, on commission, Government and State Securities of every description, Stocks, Bonds, and Gold; negotiate loans upon Property, Commercial Paper, Stocks, Bonds, etc.; carefully invest or loan money for capitalists upon Real Estate security or otherwise as instructed. We will have collections made in all parts of the United States and Canada, and secure certificates of deposit, bearing interest, which are available in all parts of the Union. We shall be glad to furnish correspondents with any information in our possession on all matters of business in the city.

Orders in the Banking and Commission business will receive our prompt personal attention, and we are confident of rendering entire satisfaction to our customers and correspondents whose interests may be confided to us.

THOMAS H. NORTON,  
late Captain Eleventh U. S. Infantry.

\* In order to prevent mistakes and insure prompt delivery, please address all communications to our post-office box, the number of which is given above.

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## U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1871.

Office, No. 39 Park Row, New York.

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## PARIS IN INSURRECTION.

HARDLY are the terms of peace ratified, and deeply wounded France begins the process of recovery, when Paris is a second time besieged—not by Germans, however, but by the French government itself. For Paris fulfils its old reputation, and at the first contact with difficulty and trial meets the occasion by rising in revolt. The Chassepot takes the place of the guillotine, but as of old in France the victims are chosen from among the bravest and most patriotic.

The beginning of the trouble, so far as any rebellion can be said to have a beginning in Paris, the city of chronic discontent, must be dated from the triumphal entry of the Germans. A number of the National Guards then refused to give up their cannon and took them up the hill of Montmartre, where they have remained ever since. The government made a weak attempt to obtain possession of them on Friday night, March 16. Some cannon were removed and prisoners made, but the next morning the National Guards of Belleville and Montmartre appeared, released the prisoners, and commenced a formal revolution, the leaders taking the name of the Committee of the National Guards, and claiming to act by virtue of the "suffrages of two hundred and fifteen battalions." Who they are has not yet appeared, but probably GUSTAVE FLOURENS and his compeers, who were a few days ago condemned to death by default for their part in the September *emute*, have their part in the leadership. Apparently excited by their success, they did not hesitate to commence the arrest of prominent men, nor their execution after sentence by drum-head court-martial. The brave Generals LE COMTE and CLEMENT THOMAS were certainly shot; SUSVILLE and VINOY have been reported to have suffered the same fate. CHANZY was arrested as he arrived at a railway station, and so brutally treated that he had to be sent to the hospital. He is held as a hostage, whose fate is to be death if the government attacks the insurgents. Thus the first victims were those few soldiers who won renown in the disgraceful war which has just closed. The THIERS government with all its departments fled to Versailles; the foreign ministers followed. All the offices of government were occupied by the insurgents. Thus Paris, designed to be a citadel in the hands of its ruler, and with its system of government buildings, streets, and underground passages perfected by the incessant labors of kings and emperors to be the safeguard of their power, fell into

the hands of the revolutionists, and its strongholds can serve only to perpetuate the rule of the mob. It is said that the army journals severely condemn the THIERS government as the cause of the trouble. Certainly the power which, holding the Hotel de Ville and all its outworks, is unable to command Paris, must be exceptionally weak. The last move of the insurgents has been to occupy the forts on the south and west of the city. Their numbers are unknown, but may reach twenty to forty thousand armed men. The government announces that it has forty-seven thousand at Versailles. Again we see Paris besieged by an army whose headquarters are at Versailles.

These insurgents have made the two mistakes which have sufficed to undermine so many attempts at revolution. They began by killing the peaceable and the prominent, and continued by releasing the debtor from his obligations. By thus robbing the government of all it can possibly confer—security to person and property—they have arrayed all good citizens against them. In spite of all they have seized in Paris, they are still confined to Montmartre and the forts. The city is not theirs in sympathy or in fact, and the prospect at the date of the last accounts was that the government would before long regain its control of the city.

SOME of the ambitious newspaper correspondents accompanying the Santo Domingo expedition were with difficulty entreated to forego their purpose of making a journey into the lines of CABRAL, the leader of the revolt against the Dominican government under BAEZ. Captain TEMPLE found it necessary to warn them in very plain terms that they put their necks in jeopardy by undertaking the journey proposed, as they placed themselves in the position of spies, because of the relations of our Government to one of the belligerents. His letter, with others that appear elsewhere, have directed attention to the nature of these relations, and have revived those charges of usurpation against the Government at Washington with which Senator SUMNER made the Senate Chamber ring. In the nice adjustment of the relations between the various departments of our Government under the Constitution, it is sometimes difficult to say what is the precise limit of authority on the part of the Executive in its dealings with foreign powers. Leaving partisan debaters to settle the question in this case according to the several interests, we may say that we fail to see wherein the Executive has overstepped the just limit of prerogative. It is true that looking at the matter from this distance, we might suggest that a less peremptory tone would have answered every purpose in dealing with so weak a State as Hayti; but the Government should not be held too strictly responsible for the lack of politeness of its minor officers. A correspondence conducted by consuls cannot be expected to present the diplomatic finish of a MOTLEY or a FISH.

The position is a peculiar one. While we are treating for the annexation of Santo Domingo, we cannot affect to ignore efforts to interfere with her independence which are evidently designed to prevent the desired annexation. Our Government has been forced to assume the responsibility of saying to Hayti that she must not interfere. To assert that the President has no authority to do this without a special act of Congress on the subject, is to deprive him of the authority and discretion which is expressly committed to him by the Constitution to enable him to carry the Congressional enactments into effect. In the exercise of his prerogative he has entered into an informal understanding for the annexation of Santo Domingo, subject to the approval of Congress. Congress has considered the question, and pending its decision has appointed a commission to report upon the subject. It is the evident duty of the Executive to protect this commission in carrying out the object of its mission, even to the extent of warning trespassers off the property while we are examining the title. The fact that the trespasser in this case is a power so weak as Hayti gives us no additional rights, it is true, but neither does it deprive us of the rights which we should have in the case of like interference by England, France, or Germany. Would not an attempt on their part to break up our negotiations with Santo Domingo by interfering with that



State call for remonstrance on our part, even at the risk of war?

SOME strictures having been made upon the management and services of the medical department of the German army after Gravelotte, the *Militär Wochenblatt* gives a summary of the capital operations performed. There were in all 240 surgeons and 4,840 other members of the sanitary corps of all kinds present. In the first twenty-four hours there were 61 amputations and 22 other capital operations; in the second twenty-four hours, 19 amputations and 14 other great operations; and in the third and subsequent days the numbers were respectively 49 and 14. In all there were 129 amputations and 30 serious operations performed on the field. These numbers do not include the work of the Twelfth corps surgeons, who came up during the night after the battle. All the accounts which have reached us have given the best report of the German army surgeons, and the German sanitary and relief system; but considering the number of surgeons and their assistants, the work done hardly seems to reach almost to the limit of possibility, as the *Wochenblatt* thinks.

OUR sympathy is excited for cousin BULL. Out of 300,000 barrels of powder in store he finds but 800 that are serviceable—that is to say, of the new "pebble powder." Here he has been for years pooh-poohing the Yankee powder as being too weak—83 pounds of his favorite L. G. R. being equal to 100 pounds of our rifle powder. One day a few months ago he woke up, rubbed his eyes, and repeated our experiments with prismatic and mammoth powder. Astonished to find that after all there was something in this Yankee idea of equal velocity of shot with diminished strain on the gun, but not quite magnanimous enough to admit his indebtedness, he appropriates the results as his own, rechristens mammoth as pebble powder, and chuckles over his success. We are amply revenged at the sight of his terrible fright.

THE lack of discipline which has produced such terrible results in Paris is, it seems, no new trait of the National Guards. A correspondent of the *London Army and Navy Gazette* gives an account of a little scene he saw a month ago: "A captain found fault with a man on guard, and ordered him to give up his musket and retire; a violent altercation ensued, and in the end the man smote the captain with his fist. The captain summoned four other men to arrest the soldier who had struck him, but the four, instead of arresting the aggressor, endeavored to pacify him, and finally succeeded. The man was then persuaded to yield his weapon and go home." To work on such materials as this was an easy task for the radicals.

THE conference on the Black Sea question has finished its work, its last sessions being attended by the Duc DE BROGLIE as representative of France. Earl GRANVILLE announced to the House of Lords that a treaty had been signed abrogating the restrictions which forbid the entrance of foreign men-of-war into the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, and giving the Sultan power to admit in times of peace the naval vessels of friendly powers, whenever needed to enforce the treaty of 1856. The Danubian commission is extended twelve years. This treaty expressly provides that no power can relieve itself of its provisions without the consent of the others.

GENERAL SHERMAN is expected to be present at the meeting of the Army of the Tennessee in Cincinnati on the 6th and 7th of April. From there he proposes to go to San Antonio, Texas, and make a tour of all the posts along that frontier as far up as Fort Sill, and so on to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to observe and study the changes made and in progress at the Southwest. Such a tour of inspection will bring the General commanding the Army more immediately in contact with the officers furthest removed from association with the War Department, and will furnish an opportunity for observations and a comparison of views which will be of great value to the service.

THE foolish legislation of Congress in regard to the West Point troubles has received no attention from the heads of the War Department, who could

not obey the resolutions of the House without disobeying an important organic law of the service. Cadet FLECKENGER has been reappointed by the member of Congress of his district, and will re-enter the Academy next June. The other cadets, it is supposed, will accept their situation.

CONGRESS has been so much occupied with debate on the state of the South, that it has had little time for anything else. Senator Nye, however, introduced a bill to the following effect:

That all officers of the U. S. Army who were mustered out under the provisions of an act of Congress approved July 15, 1870, known as "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending June 30, 1871, and for other purposes," be and the same are hereby reinstated: *Provided*, That they be assigned, according to the respective grades and seniority held by them at the time of muster out, to vacancies in the staff and respective arm of the service to which they belonged, as such vacancies now exist or may hereafter occur, and that no promotions be made until these officers are so assigned: *And further provided*, That said officers so reinstated shall receive no pay until the date of such assignment, and that all acts or parts of acts conflicting with the above be and the same are hereby repealed.

A memorial was also presented, signed by Major John P. Sherburne and a number of officers who were mustered out under the recent act of Congress reducing the Army, setting forth that the operation of the law had worked out great injustice to many deserving men, and that petty spite and personal animosities had been the cause for the discharge of many, instead of unfitness for the position they occupied, and they ask Congress to provide such legislation as will enable them to be reinstated as fast as vacancies shall occur. A similar bill was introduced into the House, but it is reported that they have little prospect of success.

The committee favorably considered the bill, recommended by the War Department, to authorize the expenditure of \$800,000 to enlarge the barracks and depot at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in order to afford winter quarters for all the cavalry serving on the plains, which it is considered desirable to concentrate at this point during the season, when they cannot engage in actual field operations. But no final conclusion was reached upon it.

Senator Blair's bill, to authorize the expenditure of \$300,000 for experiments upon heavy ordnance, was referred to be reported adversely.

The Secretary of War sent a communication to the House enclosing a communication from the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, relative to the omission on the part of the late Congress to appropriate \$100,000 to enable him to continue the payment of the claims of the colored soldiers and sailors during the fiscal year ending 1871, and asking an appropriation to be made. The War Department also asks for \$850,000 to pay for horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service. The Secretary of the Interior informs Congress that the appropriation for the subsistence of the Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Apaches, Kiowas, and Comanches will probably be exhausted by the end of June, and if a new appropriation is not made, they will be forced to scatter upon the plains and thus return to the old condition of things. He wants \$250,000 to prevent this.

Signed by the President: Bill authorizing the President to nominate R. H. Lamson a lieutenant in the United States Navy.

Passed: Bill appropriating \$247 74 to John E. Wheeler, late a first lieutenant heavy artillery, in full payment of services rendered from May 15, 1865, to June 15, 1865; bill to pay certain militia companies in Missouri for services during the war.

Referred to Committee on Claims: Petition of Mrs. Colonel J. Kearny.

Referred to Committee on Military Affairs: Petition of Washington Matthews, surgeon, and other officers stationed at Fort Buford, Dakota, for reimbursement of losses occasioned by burning of their quarters; petition of certain soldiers of Thirteenth Tennessee Cavalry; petition of John Shelton; bill for the relief of First battalion Massachusetts Heavy Artillery; memorial from Arizona asking protection from Indians.

Referred to Committee on Naval Affairs: Bill for relief of pilots of Mississippi Squadron and their surviving families.

Referred to Committee on Indian Affairs: Bill to abolish tribal relations of Miami Indians and for other purposes.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations when appointed: Letter from the Secretary of War relating to the law which forbids the publication of Army Regulations except by act of Congress:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, March 23, 1871.

SIR: Under section 20 of the act approved July 15, 1870, making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1871, the Secretary of War is directed to prepare a system of general regulations for the administration of the affairs of the Army and submit it to Congress for approval at its next session. Steps were taken immediately after the passage of the law to comply with this provision, but up to the present time it has not been possible to prepare them for presentation to Congress. It has been the custom of the Department, under the act of April 24, 1816, to issue

from time to time, with the approval of the President, new editions of the Army Regulations, embodying such alterations and amendments as the necessities of the service required to be made. These regulations have been looked upon solely as executive rules for the administration of the Army, as distinguished from acts of Congress, and are always in accordance with such acts. But the act of July 15, 1870, requires the new system to be submitted to Congress for approval before going into effect; and further, when approved, it shall be in force and obeyed until revoked by the same authority. This proviso, therefore, deprives the Executive of the authority exercised up to the passage of the act of July 28, 1866, to alter or amend, and is embarrassing to the Department for the reason that the necessities of the service often require a modification of minor provisions, and under that act every change will have to be submitted to Congress for approval.

I therefore submit to the consideration of Congress the recommendation that section 20 of the act approved July 15, 1870, be so amended as to allow the code of regulations prepared under this act to be in force and obeyed, when approved by the President, subject to such alterations as the Secretary of War may adopt from time to time, with the approval of the President.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. BELKNAP, Secretary of War.

MAJOR-GENERAL Hancock, commanding the Department of Dakota, in disapproving the proceedings in the case of Private Henry Jones, Company H, Seventh Infantry, says: "The accused offered as a plea in bar of trial his honorable discharge upon the expiration of his term of service, after charges had been preferred against him, and his subsequent re-enlistment under the impression that his discharge precluded further prosecution. The court erred in not admitting the plea. Except in certain cases, to which the one under consideration does not belong, a court-martial can exercise no jurisdiction over an officer or enlisted man after he has ceased to belong to the military service. It is only when tainted with fraud that a discharge can be treated as void with the view of bringing the soldier to trial for an offence committed in violation of the 99th Article of War. Otherwise, and when given with full knowledge of his standing in the service, and of all proceedings pending against him, it cannot legally be revoked, however improperly and unadvisedly given under the circumstances. The soldier cannot justly be made to suffer from an error committed by the representative of the Government in such case." (*Holt's Digest*, 1868, p. 145.) The discharge of Private Jones was never cancelled on the ground of fraud. The jurisdiction of the court therefore ceased to exist upon his formal discharge, and was not revived by his re-entry into the service. Having determined to proceed with the trial, it is difficult to understand how the court arrived at its conclusions [that the accused was not guilty] with reference to the evidence, which places it beyond a doubt that the prisoner was found, about the hour of midnight, under a bed in the private quarters of an officer, and under circumstances which justify the presumption that he was there for an unlawful purpose, and therefore without authority."

LIEUTENANT George M. Wheeler, of the United States Engineer Corps, has received instructions to make a thorough exploration of the northern part of Arizona Territory and the southern part of Nevada. He will have a suitable escort from the command of the Military Division of the Pacific, and will leave Washington in a few days for San Francisco to make arrangements for the expedition. It is the general belief that this unexplored territory is rich in minerals, and the Western members of Congress have long been urging the exploration of these parts of Arizona and Nevada with the view of ascertaining what the country is really worth. The report of Lieutenant Wheeler, therefore, is looked for with more than ordinary interest by those having in view our increase of immigration toward the Pacific slope.

ONE of the results of the recent settlement by Congress of the question of staff rank in the Navy is to give the title of Surgeon-General to Surgeon Wood, of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; of Paymaster-General to Paymaster Dunn, of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing; and to Paymaster Bridge, retired while chief of that bureau; of Engineer-in-Chief to Chief Engineer King, of the Bureau of Steam Engineering; and of Chief Constructor to Naval Constructor I. Hanscom of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, and to Naval Constructor Lenthall, retired while chief of that bureau.

THE following rates of wages for the petty officers and other employees on board revenue marine vessels have been established by the Secretary of the Treasury to take effect May 1, 1871: boatswain, gunner, and carpenter, per month, \$35; quartermaster, master-at-arms, and coxswain, \$30; seamen, \$25; boys (first class), \$15; boys (second class), \$12; firemen, \$35; coal-passers, \$25; cabin steward, \$35; wardroom steward, \$35; cooks, \$35,



## VOLUNTEER CAVALRY.—No. X.

## THE LESSONS OF THE DECADE.

BY A VOLUNTEER CAVALRYMAN.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1871, by W. C. & F. P. Church, in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

## MARCHES—HALTS—UNSADDLING AT NOON.

Wars are made up of campaigns and sieges. Campaigns are made up of marches and battles. Cavalry takes part in both, and excels in marches. Good cavalry can execute stupendous feats in marching if its horses are in good condition, but horses fall away from fatigue and privation much faster than men. Weight and time tell on horses. With a light weight, and at a brisk pace, they will execute far greater distances than if heavily loaded and travelling slowly. Every moment a load remains on their backs, standing or moving, is a penance to them. The removal of weight rests them very quickly. A spare horse, that has been led the same distance as a loaded one, will seem to be perfectly fresh when mounted for a change. Good food, plenty of it, dry quarters, and room to lie down, will carry the horses of a regiment triumphantly through the hardest marches, if they are not loaded too heavily.

Keeping these landmarks in sight, the principles of managing cavalry on the march are not difficult to acquire.

In the first place, with green cavalry and experienced officers, these last should see that the saddling be careful.

If the light McClellan tree without flaps or saddle-bags, is used, and if the soldiers are restricted rigorously to a blanket and shelter tent, with one suit of linen underclothes, the weight of the packed saddle, exclusive of rations, ought not to exceed ten pounds. Three days' grain in the grain-bag makes thirty pounds more, and five days' rations ten more. Thus it will be seen that the weight of a saddle with three days' forage and rations can be reduced to fifty pounds, the ordinary weight of a dragoon saddle in Europe without a single pound of food. Counting an armed man at one hundred and fifty pounds, it will thus be quite easy to bring the total weight on the horse to two hundred pounds, a little over fourteen stone, at the commencement of the march, when the horse ought to be at his best condition. As the march progresses, the weight decreases, so that in three days nearly forty pounds has been taken from the load. The average weight of our future volunteer cavalry ought to be brought to this standard, and the maximum of efficiency will be reached. There will be room for medium-sized men of stout and active frame, and neither will the horses be overloaded, nor will the men be weakling pigmies, the extreme that some cavalry theorists would lead us to. A man under one hundred and twenty pounds is not much use in a sabre charge, unless he is remarkably muscular for his weight. But from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty pounds weight has often turned out some of the most formidable athletes, and activity and skill with the sabre will counterbalance the rest. For dismounted work, the lighter and more active a man, the better.

The weight being reduced to the minimum, and the saddling attended to, the men should be kept on foot to the last minute. The practice of assembling mounted, and sitting on horseback, watching the rest of the column defile past, till it is the turn of the regiment to move, is bad. Brigade and division commanders should always keep a staff officer whose special duty it is to indicate to each regiment its place in the column. In this matter it is for the best to keep the same officer constantly detailed for this duty, and to attend to marches and camps in general. Such a practice is better than the rotation by different officers. I have seen both plans tried, and the first always worked the best.

Regimental commanders should, when waiting for the route, mass in column of squadrons, dismounted, and not move out till the leading regiment has fully passed. It is not of near the same importance in cavalry to keep a column closed up as in infantry. If fighting begins, it is quite easy to trot up to save distance, and the advantages of close intervals are neutralized by the dust at other times.

The first hour of a day's march should be taken at a brisk walk, when a halt of five minutes should be called. At such times the men should dismount in their sets of fours. This halt is very beneficial to the horses, as it gives them time to stale, and horses checked in the operation receive much injury therefrom.

At all halts throughout the day care should be taken that regiments halt together. Many colonels, from an over-earnestness to keep "closed up," waste their halting time in closing intervals. Every halt ought to be fully enjoyed by every horse in the command. Colonels of regiments should be warned to dismount their men as soon as brigade headquarters dismount, and each regiment is to follow without waiting for orders, as it sees its leaders dismounting. The only persons allowed to

remain on horseback at halts are the staff officers on duty. All others, officers and privates, should dismount. After the first halt a trot should be taken for the next half hour. During this trot regiments may be closed up, and, after the horses begin to sweat, they should be pulled up and walked. Cavalry generals should not judge of the severity of the pace by its effects on their own horses alone. Costly and well-bred animals, with very little weight on them, and relieved from duty alternately, they are no fit criterion for the horses in the column. A good general keeps his eye constantly on his troops, and concerns himself with them during the march.

A second halt should be called at midday for half an hour, when officers will be charged to see that all saddles in their troops are readjusted if any necessity exists for it. The grain bag and ration wallets should be taken off at the midday halt, as also the sabre, which is fastened to the saddle by a snap hook at other times of dismounting, particularly to fight on foot. The loosening of the girths, even taking off the saddles, is advisable at the midday halt, if the enemy are not too near, and in dusty weather a good brushing will refresh the horses wonderfully.

Half an hour's halt at noon employed in unsaddling will reanimate the horses to such an extent that when the advance is once more sounded they will seem as fresh as in the morning. The operation is quite easy with a saddle having no flaps and properly packed. A horse can be saddled in perfect order in two minutes, the packing having been done in the morning; and, if the men are accustomed to saddling and unsaddling rapidly, the gain to the horses will be great. Many cavalry officers will stare aghast at the notion of saddling and unsaddling twice a day, but I have seen the experiment tried, and it always paid. Officers can detect by this means the first beginnings of sore backs, better than at night, when every one is tired, and they can prevent the evil from spreading by dismounting the man and making him lead his horse till it is cured. If colonels and company officers are strict on this point, it will prevent a great deal of suffering to the poor animals. At these midday halts brigades are massed by regiments, in columns of squadrons, in some convenient field. Shorter halts are more conveniently made in the road in the morning. Afternoon halts are better when made in mass to avoid tedious length of columns in coming into camp in the evening.

When the distance to be gone is settled, it should be made as rapidly as possible, to give an opportunity for going into camp by daylight. This system saves both men and horses, gives plenty of light whereby to post pickets, allows of foraging parties, and is better on every account. Slow marches and late camps wear out horses more than great distances more rapidly made.

A cavalry general should consider these matters, and his men will appreciate him. A martinet who wants his men to encamp in particular manners, to suit his individual whims, soon earns their dislike.

## CONTRAST OF SYSTEMS.

The first division of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac was successively commanded by two officers as different in this respect as light from darkness. The first was General Buford, a model cavalry commander. Under his orders, the division pursued a course of victory united with comfort in marching, remarkable in the history of the war. Cautious and bold at the same time, he never allowed himself to be flanked in battle or delayed in marching. In all the time the division was under his orders I never remember an uncomfortable camp; and the condition of the horses was excellent all the time.

After his death in the spring of 1864, General Torbert was put in command of the same division. It is safe to say that during the whole time he commanded us, our division never had a comfortable camp. An infantry general if anything, Torbert was utterly unfit to have control of cavalry, and soon proved it. He had a peculiar partiality for encamping his whole division in a single field if he had to hunt for one for hours. Many and many a time do I remember him keeping his whole division sitting, waiting for an hour and a half while some member of his staff was riding about the neighborhood trying to find a large field. Somehow or other, when it was found, it was always a ploughed field. Down in the dust we had to lie night after night, horses and men alike tired and disgusted. Our chief trouble was securing our horses. We had to leave them in charge of some comrade who held three or four while we started off to find wood for picket pins. If a horse was at all disposed so to do, all our picket pins would not hold him from pulling them up out of the loose soil. In the morning horse and man arose alike unrefreshed, dirty and uncomfortable, after a wretched night. The water was always distant from us, and when we went down to it we

generally found the other divisions close to it and in good camps.

The result was that this whole division, which Buford left at the end of a campaign nearly four thousand strong, was dwindled to less than two thousand at the commencement of 1865, and what horses were left were in miserable condition. All which might have been saved had a cavalry general instead of a pompous infantry martinet been put over that division after John Buford's death.

The change was wonderful when General Thomas C. Devin, an old cavalry officer, took command of the same division. Although in the midst of a raid of unexampled severity of marching, we had twice as much comfort as we had had in Torbert's time. Our camps, except in one or two instances quite unavoidable, were made in daylight and pitched among woods. Our pickets were secure; our horses, in spite of hard marches, kept their own, and three days' rest and food at Whitehouse Landing put them all in trim for the final campaign.

## EUROPEAN CAVALRY DEFECTS.

As a general thing, our cavalry generals, and particularly regular cavalry officers, were very careful in the matter of horses, frequent dismounting, and comfortable camps. European cavalry in this respect are far behind our own. General Philip Kearny, when a subaltern officer of dragoons, was sent to Europe in 1840 to examine and report on European, particularly French, cavalry in campaign. He was fortunate enough to be attached, during an Algerian campaign, to the celebrated Chasseurs d'Afrique, at that time by far the best light cavalry in Europe. He published on his return a small pamphlet (the only copy of which now extant is in the possession of General J. Watts De Peyster, of New York city), describing his experiences. In this pamphlet he especially remarks on the carelessness of the French cavalry in this very matter of horses and on the length of time frequently allowed to elapse while the regiment stood waiting for orders to dismount.

The same care that a good infantry general shows for the comfort of his men, a cavalry general should have for his horses. A cavalry soldier will take care of himself under any circumstances, and grumble if neglected. But the poor horse cannot complain. He can only die if neglected. A cavalry general should remember this maxim, at all times and in all places: "Take care of your horses; the men will take care of themselves."

Camps should therefore be made in one of two places, deep grass fields near water, or woods. The latter are best on many accounts. The trees are handy to hitch to. A horse can pull up a stake in a meadow if he wants to. In a wood he cannot get away from his tree. His rider has not far to go for wood for his fire, and, not being tired out and dispirited by a bad camp, has heart to attend to his horse. Bad camps and comfortless nights disgust more men with campaigning than battles, and kill more horses than marching.

The experience of the First Cavalry division of the Army of the Potomac will illustrate this. When men are tired out and disheartened by a careless commander, their horses and themselves suffer alike. Camps being good, marches brisk, and halts frequent, the first three days of a raid are pleasantly passed. Then the forage gives out, and it becomes necessary to "live on the country," unless supplies are at once forthcoming.

## ANNEXATION OF SAN DOMINGO.

THE Steamer *Tennessee*, with the commissioners and the entire San Domingo expedition, arrived at Key West March 21, with not one case of sickness on board. The vessel was expected to stay there four days to coal. It was the intention of the commissioners to leave ship at this point, and go home by rail from Cedar Keys, or some other point accessible by commercial steamers from this place. But no steamer was in readiness. Nearly two weeks' delay has been occasioned by the visit to Kingston.

On the subject of the report of the commissioners to the President, the newspaper correspondents announce that there has been some earnest and emphatic debate between the commissioners. Three reports were under preparation at one time. Mr. Wade wanted a short and decided report ready to be presented when the Commissioners arrived in Washington. Mr. White wanted to go to Washington and write the report there, taking several weeks' time, in order to make it as full and as perfect as the importance of the case demanded. Mr. Howe at first was undecided, and all three began reports. The members agreed upon the substantial points, all being favorable to annexation; but they did not agree as to the character of the report and its length. Mr. Wade is reported to have written a very plain matter-of-fact document, which he closed by saying, substantially, that he thought it unbecoming the United States to hold out inducements and promises to a weak and helpless government, and then treat her in bad faith and leave her to her fate. The report all through was strongly in favor of annexation. He takes the ground that Baer is the *de facto* President of the republic, and that he is in full and peaceful possession of the government; that Cabral is a mere bandit, living in a mountain district, where he is sustained by Hayti. The people of San Domingo, Mr.



Wade says, are overwhelmingly in favor of annexation. They are described as a quiet, orderly, industrious race. The charges of corruption against United States officers in the negotiation of the treaty of 1869 are branded as slanders, without foundation. This report will doubtless be agreed to by all the Commissioners.

The following letters in regard to our relations with Hayti have been published:

U. S. S. TENNESSEE, AZUA BAY, Feb. 24, 1871.

Hon. B. F. Wade, Azua.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I understand that several of the gentlemen belonging to the expedition [newspaper correspondents.—ED. JOURNAL] are to start to-morrow overland for Port-au-Prince. It may not have occurred to these gentlemen that, by so doing, they will virtually place themselves in the position of spies; and, if they are taken by Cabral's people, they can be hung to the nearest tree by sentence of a drum-head court-martial according to all the rules of civilized warfare. For they belong to a nation that, through the orders of its Executive to the naval vessels here, has chosen to take part in the internal conflicts of this country; they come directly from the headquarters of Cabral's enemies; they are without arms, uniform, or authority of any kind for being in a hostile region. They are, in fact, spies. They go expressly to learn everything connected with the enemy's country, and their observations are intended for publication, and thus indirectly to be reported back to President Baez. Surely Cabral would have a right to prevent this if he can.

If it were merely a question of their lives, they might be left to take their own course after the consequences had been pointed out to them; but the subsequent course of the United States Government and the immediate action of this vessel, in such an event, has to be considered.

Or suppose, instead of hanging them, Cabral should hold them as hostages until any friends of his in Baez's hands should be released and sent to him.

You will readily see that the complications might become serious. I would suggest that, however remote the chances may seem of their capture, yet the chances of deriving any benefit from their journey are more remote still.

In consideration of these views, I would beg of you to withhold your consent to this proposed expedition, and also to request President Baez to forbid the passage of these gentlemen through his lines.

Respectfully and faithfully yours, in great haste,

WILLIAM G. TEMPLE.

P. S.—There are other points of view from which this question can be seen, which I do not care to commit to writing.

United States Consul Gautier addresses General Nord Alexis in the following terms:

"GENERAL: A large majority of the Dominican people have asked through their representatives to be annexed to the United States; and negotiations with that view have been entered into and still continue. A commission has been appointed to go to San Domingo and make a careful examination, when all who are opposed to annexation will again have an opportunity to make themselves heard. In the mean time the United States have engaged to protect the legitimate government of the Dominican Republic—that of the President Baez—against all intervention from outside; and to fulfil this engagement the United States will even use force, if other means prove inefficient. (*Et, pour remplir cet engagement, les Etats Unis emploieront même la force, si les autres moyens sont inefficaces.*) The Haytian Government has been duly cautioned (*avertit*), and has promised to preserve a strict neutrality."

Consul Gautier proceeds to point out the movements of General Luperon and his associates, and continues:

"I do not wish to say by this that the authorities at Cape Hytien are secretly aiding the Dominican insurgents, although it is known to every one that General Luperon is in friendly relations with them, and that they have accorded him long interviews; but I desire to warn the authorities here, fearing that their sympathies, by leading them to exceed the limits of their duties, may not only alienate the good feeling of the United States toward the Haytian Government, but may occasion grave complications which may still be avoided by prudence."

General Nord in reply says:

"I have already been ordered by my Government to preserve the strictest neutrality regarding the affairs of the Dominican quarter."

Minister Bassett addressed the following letters to the Haytian Secretary of State:

UNITED STATES LEGATION, PORT-AU-PRINCE, JAMAICA, January 10, 1871.

To the Hon. J. T. Rameau, Secretary of State.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that negotiations are pending between the United States and President Baez of the Dominican Republic; and I am instructed by my Government to make known to the Haytian Government that it will regard with decided disfavor all attempts made (no matter by whom) to disturb the peace or interfere in the internal affairs of the neighboring Dominican Republic during these negotiations.

I respectfully ask that you will, without delay, direct the attention of your Government to these instructions from my Government, and I express the hope that the Government and people of Hayti will be encouraged to preserve the strictest neutrality in regard to the internal affairs of the Dominican Republic, and that they shall use their influence to prevent the occurrence of any incident arising from the revolutionary state of this island, calculated to affect in the least degree the interests of the United States, as well as the amity existing between Hayti and the United States.

EBENEZER D. BASSETT.

This letter was replied to by Secretary Rameau, when Minister Bassett answered as follows:

U. S. LEGATION, PORT-AU-PRINCE, Feb. 9, 1871.

SIR: I thank you for your letter of the 21st ult., in reply to mine of an earlier date, inviting your Government to observe strict neutrality in the internal affairs of San Domingo, and I shall experience much pleasure in informing the United States Government of the friendly spirit in which you have received the notification of its wish and of its expectation in this particular circumstance.

But, nevertheless, it would be more satisfactory and more agreeable to my Government and myself, if, when writing in the name of your Government, you felt yourself authorized to give the assurance of neutrality asked and expected by the United States.

Since the receipt of your despatch we have heard from sources worthy of consideration, reports which, supposing them to be reasonably exact, may give rise to serious embarrassments, in the absence of any assurance of neutrality on the part of your Government. I shall not insist on the accuracy of these reports. I will mention only, that your Consul at Kingston, Jamaica, is known to be well informed respecting certain schemes of intervention in the affairs of San Domingo, and that he and your Consul at Curaçoa are accused of masking and protecting, or of being ready to mask and protect, by means of their official position, projects of the character indicated. It has also come to our knowledge that certain other persons propose to disturb the internal peace of San Domingo, under cover of the Haytian flag.

In the absence of a declaration of a neutral policy on the part of your Government relative to the internal affairs of San Domingo, the United States, despite its wish to the contrary, may find cause of dissatisfaction when, from well-informed authorities, we receive reports which lead the Government to fear that the Haytian Government may be compromised by her citizens and representatives, who, so far as we know, have received no notice from their Government to observe that neutrality which my Government, in cordial amity, much desires and counts upon you to see observed.

EBENEZER D. BASSETT.

#### LEE'S RETREAT FROM GETTYSBURG.

GENERAL J. D. Imboden, who served with the Confederates during the war, tells in the *Galaxy* for April how he saved Lee's trains after the battle of Gettysburg. He says:

Daybreak on the morning of the 5th found the head of our column at Greencastle, twelve or fifteen miles from the Potomac at Williamsport, our point of crossing. Here our apprehended troubles from the Union cavalry began. From the fields and cross-roads they attacked us in small bodies, striking the column where there were few or no guards, and creating great confusion.

To add still further to our perplexities, a report was brought that the Federals in large force held Williamsport. This fortunately proved untrue. After a great deal of harassing and desultory fighting along the road, nearly the whole immense train reached Williamsport a little after the middle of the day. The town was taken possession of; all the churches, school-houses, etc., were converted into hospitals, and proving insufficient, many of the private houses were occupied. Straw was obtained on the neighboring farms; the wounded were removed from the wagons and housed; the citizens were all put to cooking and the army surgeons to dressing wounds. The dead were selected from the train—for many had perished on the way—and were decently buried. All this had to be done because the tremendous rains had raised the river more than ten feet above the fording stage, and we could not possibly cross.

Our situation was frightful. We had over 10,000 animals and all the wagons of General Lee's army under our charge, and all the wounded that could be brought from Gettysburg. Our supply of provisions consisted of a few wagon loads of flour and a small lot of cattle. My effective force was only about 2,100 men and twenty-odd field pieces. We did not know where our army was; the river could not be crossed; and small parties of cavalry were still hovering around. The means of forage consisted of two small boats and a small wire rope stretched across the river, which, owing to the force of the swollen current, broke several times during the day. To reduce the space to be defended as much as possible, all the wagons and animals were parked close together on the river bank.

Believing that an attack would soon be made upon us, I ordered the wagoners to be mustered, and, taking three out of every four, organized them into companies, and armed them with the weapons of the wounded men found in the train. By this means I added to my effective force about five hundred men. Slightly wounded officers promptly volunteered their services to command these improvised soldiers; and many of our quartermasters and commissaries did the same thing. We were not seriously molested on the 5th; but next morning about nine o'clock information reached me that a large body of cavalry from Frederick, Maryland, was rapidly advancing to attack us. As we could not retreat further, it was at once frankly made known to the troops that unless we could repel the threatened attack we should all become prisoners, and that the loss of his whole transportation would probably ruin General Lee; for it could not be replaced for many months, if at all, in the then exhausted condition of the Confederate States. So far from repressing the ardor of the troops, this frank announcement of our peril inspired all with the utmost enthusiasm. Men and officers alike, forgetting the sufferings of the past few days, proclaimed their determination to drive back the attacking force or perish in the attempt. All told, we were less than 3,000 men. The advancing force we knew to be more than double ours, consisting, as we had ascertained, of five Regular and eight Volunteer regiments of cavalry, with eighteen guns, all under the command of Generals Buford and Kilpatrick. We had no works of any kind; the country was open and almost level, and there was no advantage of position we could occupy. It must necessarily be a square stand-up fight, face to face. We had twenty-

two field guns of various calibre and one Whitworth. These were disposed in batteries, in semicircle, about one mile out of the village, on the summit of a very slight rising ground that lies back of the town. Except the artillery, our troops were held out of view of the assailants, and ready to be moved promptly to any threatened point along the whole line of nearly two miles in extent.

Knowing that nothing could save us but a bold "bluff" game, orders had been given to the artillery as soon as the advancing forces came within range to open fire along the whole line, and to keep it up with the utmost rapidity. A little after one o'clock they appeared on two roads in our front, and our batteries opened. They soon had their guns in position, and a very lively artillery fight began. We fired with great rapidity, and in less than an hour two of our batteries reported that their ammunition was exhausted. This would have been fatal to us but for the opportune arrival at the critical moment of an ammunition train from Winchester. The wagons were ferried across to our side as soon as possible, and driven on the field in a gallop to supply the silent guns. Not having men to occupy half our line, they were moved up in order of battle, first to one battery, then withdrawn and double-quickened to another, but out of view of our assailants till they could be shown at some other point on our line. By this manoeuvring we made the impression that we had a strong supporting force in rear of all our guns along our entire front. To test this, Generals Buford and Kilpatrick dismounted five regiments and advanced them on foot on our right. We concentrated there all the men we had, wagoners and all, and thus, with the aid of the united fire of all our guns directed at the advancing line, we drove it back, and rushed forward two of our batteries four or five hundred yards further to the front. This boldness prevented another charge, and the fight was continued till near sunset with the artillery.

About that time General Fitzhugh Lee sent a message from toward Greencastle, that if we could hold out an hour he would reinforce us with 3,000 men. This intelligence elicited a loud and long-continued cheer along our whole line, which was heard and understood by our adversaries, as we learned from prisoners taken. A few minutes later General J. E. B. Stuart, advancing from Hagerstown, fell unexpectedly upon the rear of their right wing, and in ten minutes they were in rapid retreat by their left flank, in the direction of Boonsborough. Night coming on enabled them to escape.

By extraordinary good fortune we had thus saved all of General Lee's trains. A bold charge at any time before sunset would have broken our feeble lines, and we should all have fallen an easy prey to the Federals. This came to be known as "the wagoners' fight" in our army, from the fact that so many of them were armed and did such gallant service in repelling the attack made on our right by the dismounted regiments.

Our defeat that day would have been an irreparable blow to General Lee, in the loss of all his transportation. Every man engaged knew this, and probably in no fight of the war was there a more determined spirit shown than by this handful of cooped-up troops. The next day our army from Gettysburg arrived, and the country is familiar with the manner in which it escaped across the Potomac on the night of the 9th.

It may be interesting to repeat one or two facts to show the peril in which we were until the river could be bridged. About 4,000 prisoners taken at Gettysburg were ferried across the river by the morning of the 9th, and I was ordered to guard them to Staunton. Before we had proceeded two miles I received a note from General Lee to report to him in person immediately. I rode to the river, was ferried over, and galloped out toward Hagerstown. As I proceeded I became satisfied that a serious demonstration was making along our front, from the heavy artillery fire extending for a long distance along the line. I overtook General Lee riding to the front near Hagerstown. He immediately reined up, and remarked that he believed I was familiar with all the fords of the Potomac above Williamsport, and the roads approaching them. I replied that I knew them perfectly. He then called up some one of his staff to write down my answers to his questions, and required me to name all fords as high up as Cumberland, and describe minutely their character, and the roads and surrounding country on both sides of the river, and directed me to send my brother, Colonel Imboden, to him to act as a guide with his regiment, if he should be compelled to retreat higher up the river to cross it. His situation was then very precarious. When about parting from him to recross the river and move on with the prisoners, he told me they would probably be rescued before I reached Winchester, my guard was so small, and he expected a force of cavalry would cross at Harper's Ferry to cut us off; and he could not spare to me any additional troops, as he might be hard pressed before he got over the river, which was still very much swollen by the rains. Referring to the high water, he laughingly inquired, "Does it ever quit raining about here? If so, I should like to see a clear day."

These incidents go to show how near Gettysburg came to ending the war in 1863. If we had been successful in that battle, the probabilities are that Baltimore and Washington would at once have fallen into our hands; and at that time there was so large a "peace party" in the North, that the Federal Government would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to carry on the war. General Lee's opinion was that we lost the battle because Pickett was not supported, "as he was to have been." On the other hand, if Generals Buford and Kilpatrick had captured the ten thousand animals and all the transportation of Lee's army at Williamsport, it would have been an irreparable loss, and would probably have led to the fall of Richmond in the autumn of 1863. On such small circumstances do the affairs of nations sometimes turn.

ACCORDING to Captain Selwyn, of the British navy, the average consumption of coal in Her Majesty's ships of war is about four and a-half pounds per hour for each effective horse-power.



## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

**SEVENTH INFANTRY.**—A battalion drill ordinarily executed becomes, even to persons fully understanding military movements, really monotonous and irksome. How dreary then must these military evolutions be to those who are unacquainted with their purpose, and who measure the beauty of a movement simply by its smoothness and grace to the eye. But when both the men in the ranks and the officers alike evince by their every action that they are thoroughly in earnest, fully informed as to their duties, and impressed with a keen desire to perform them well, the school of the soldier and the school of the battalion lose their monotony, and the evolutions become almost as interesting to both the proficient and the tyro as the unravelling of the plot of a drama. We are not surprised therefore when we find beautifully executed movements greeted with the most demonstrative applause. Thus it was on Friday evening of last week, when the right wing of the Seventh regiment, comprising companies H, A, D, G, and E, assembled for drill, this being the first of the series ordered. The weather was as unpropitious as fickle weather could be, and, if the drill had occurred in any other regiment, the attendance would have been of the smallest; but in this regiment, even the weather is unable to materially affect the attendance at drills, of which pleasing fact this drill gave practical evidence. Colonel Emmons Clark was in command, Lieutenant-Colonel Haws, Major Smith, and Adjutant Fitzgerald performing well the duties of assistants. The wing was divided into ten commands of twelve files, presenting a remarkably handsome appearance and a numerical strength nearly equal to the entire strength of the majority of the regiments of the National Guard of this State, even when they gather their recruits into the ranks—a mistake, by the way, the Seventh never commits. If we said that the drill was perfect in every detail, we should perhaps exaggerate, and lay ourselves open to the charge of partisanship; but we can safely say that we have rarely seen anywhere a better exhibition of battalion movements. The various movements were performed with a smoothness and general perfection of detail scarcely expected at the first wing drill of the season. We detected only one prominent error during the entire drill, and that was not one of ignorance or inattention, and was so quickly rectified that it caused no confusion, and only gave an excellent illustration of the practical benefit of the present system of tactics. The movements of the left and right were equally perfect; and the wheelings were so beautiful as to elicit loud applause from the numerous spectators, not a few of whom were ladies. The loading and firing (muzzle-loaders, which, despite the speedy promise of breech-loaders by the State, are still continued by the Seventh, while other regiments have "ceased firing") were exceedingly fine, and rarely excelled, particularly when loading "at will." In this portion of the drill the battalion worked like one man, and, although when loading "at will" each man is supposed and instructed to disregard his neighbor, still, in the practical execution, the Seventh worked in such perfect unison that the places of the men, company after company, came down together with almost the regularity they showed when firing by company. The drill closed at about half-past ten o'clock, an hour eminently satisfactory to officers, men, and spectators. The eighth company, Captain George W. Smith, we learn, paraded ninety-four men at this drill, gave a detail of seventeen files, and had present on this evening in its squad twelve additional files. This we understand was the largest company turnout in the Seventh since 1864. The left wing assembled for drill on Thursday evening last.

**THE FORTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY** assembled at its armory, Brooklyn, E. D., on Wednesday evening last, for instruction and drill preparatory to the public competitive battalion drill between the right and left wings on April 5. The regiment, in fatigue uniform, paraded eight commands of twelve files front, and, despite the large number of recruits in the ranks, made a very fair appearance. Colonel Austin was in command, Major Rogers, the only other field officer of the regiment, being necessarily absent on a brigade court-martial. It was more than half-past eight before the line was formed, the equalization and posting of markers being unnecessarily slow—a matter, we fear, the adjutant will have to improve upon. Then, again, for an ordinary practice drill, we see no real necessity for the dress parade formation; but we have observed that this command adheres to this on all occasions, thereby losing much valuable time. Therefore it was past nine o'clock before the regiment was ready for the execution of battalion movements, an hour altogether, too late to commence a drill. The movements performed were very few, and generally simple, and in the beginning were executed by the entire command. The battalion was then divided, and the wings exercised separately, the left wing standing at "in place rest" while the right wing was in motion. We have not space for criticising the details of this drill, but would advise much more steadiness throughout the regiment. Many of the men apparently made little distinction between "parade dress" and "in place rest," and on the march were gazing in every direction but to the front. The distances generally were not up to the mark, and that between the ranks in column of fours almost equal to single rank. The regimental commander was entirely unassisted, and, although omitting the command

"Guides post" in one or two instances, he displayed his capabilities as one of the coolest and most able instructors in the division. The regiment relatively is now in an excellent condition; and the members have apparently again awakened to the old time enthusiasm. The prospective election for new field officers, especially relative to the present vacancy of lieutenant-colonel, has caused no little excitement in the regiment, and, after the close of this drill, the coming election was canvassed earnestly by the members of the command. The special meeting of the Board of Officers was likewise very exciting, and its session continued until almost midnight. The election was to have taken place on this (Saturday) evening; but the officers at this meeting voted its postponement indefinitely. We trust the present feeling in the regiment between officers and men relative to this matter will not culminate in an open rupture, but will be amicably settled, and in accordance with the best interests of the regiment.

**SEVENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.**—Competitive drills for prizes will take place in this regiment at the Academy of Music, April 11. These prizes are four in number, and comprise the "Parmele" musket, subject to future competition; "Banks" cup, to be the property of the winner; gold medal No. 1, to be the property of the winner; and gold medal No. 2, also to be the property of the winner. The drill is to be in the regimental manual, and confined to the manual of arms and simple facings, besides loadings and firings (muzzle-loader). One referee and two judges are to be selected by the commandant, and the award of prizes will be as follows: First prize, the "Parmele" musket, to the best drilled man; second prize, the silver cup, is to be given to the winner of the first prize, provided he was a private in the regiment on the 4th of July last—if not, to the best drilled private under similar conditions—the winner of this prize is debarred from further contest; third prize, gold medal No. 1, to the winner of the musket, provided he did not win the cup—if he did, then to the second best drilled man; fourth prize, gold medal No. 2, is offered to the third best drilled man. The drill will take place between 9 and 10 p. m.

A parade is ordered in this command, in full-dress uniform, at the State Arsenal, on the 28th inst. The members of Companies K, A, C, B, and G, composing the right wing, are likewise directed to assemble for drill at the same place on the 7th prox. in full fatigue. The assembly will be sounded at 8 o'clock.

**TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.**—On Tuesday evening a detailed drill of this command took place at the State Arsenal, Brooklyn. The battalion consisted of eight commands of eight files, Colonel Rodney C. Ward commanding, assisted by Captain Van Ingen, acting lieutenant-colonel and adjutant, and Brevet Captain Manning. This was the first time during this series of drills that Colonel Ward had assumed the command, he having been out of town a portion of the time, besides suffering from a severe indisposition, under which he was apparently on this evening still laboring. Nevertheless, at the offset, the regimental commandant gave evidence of his ability as an officer, and took hold of the battalion as if he wanted the members to understand that they came there for a practical purpose. The line was formed very promptly by the adjutant; but the companies in assuming positions did not present their wonted steadiness; the colonel therefore directed the line to be reformed, the second trial being a considerable improvement on the first attempt. The battalion movements which followed were not of a very intricate nature, and as a rule were very fairly performed, men and officers being particularly attentive. The battalion, however, labored under many disadvantages, not the least of which was the limited space of the room, which is inadequate for the proper execution of many movements even with so small a frontage as eight files. For this reason, the commandant several times gave an order before he had properly calculated the space for its execution, and the consequent confusion necessarily followed. Then again, in marching in column of fours the colonel would frequently give the direction as "left" and immediately change it to "right," and vice versa, which of itself naturally caused confusion and several times necessitated obliques. At one time when the battalion was in line the colonel gave the command "Fours right," the battalion at the time being so close to the wall that the movement was necessarily cramped by the first four, the other fours of the battalion being compelled to oblique to allow it and those that followed marching room. The marchings were generally good, and by division exceedingly so. In column of four the distances were not particularly good, while the space between the front and rear ranks in many instances was at least thirty-six inches instead of twenty-eight as prescribed. Recruits were frequently observable in the rear ranks, and the colonel several times pointed a few of them out to the spectators present, by his endeavors to instruct them as to the mode of carrying their muskets. He was also particularly anxious that the men should "keep still," and by his constant attention to the general steadiness he accomplished much; in fact, at one extended "parade dress" the men appeared like statues, and were so perfectly immovable that the spectators became similarly impressed with the necessity of silence, so that the dropping of a pin would have been noticeable. The Twenty-third, in the right hands and under many circumstances, can display great steadiness. We were particularly pleased by the conduct of Captain Van Ingen, the acting lieutenant-colonel at this drill, who gave

practical evidence of his capabilities for the position. The sergeant-major was absent, and the adjutant during the drill showed some improvement as an assistant, though we must assert in a good-natured way that he is not quite up to what we would wish. His position in column of fours is on the right of the column, between the lieutenant-colonel and the leading captain. We observed that the colonel when marching the battalion in line of battle gave the guide as "right" or "left," for which we see no authority, as it is always "centre," and we contend the guide cannot be anything but "centre" in this movement. The drill was an improvement on the last we witnessed, and Colonel Ward has the material and is capable of making the Twenty-third still better in its drill. The regiment this season has struggled under the disadvantage of having many new men, who of necessity have been placed in the ranks of the companies before perfection in the squad has been acquired. As long as regiments from sheer weakness are compelled to place men only fit for the awkward squad in the ranks of the company and battalion, just so long will movements be irregular and imperfect in their general execution. To insure smoothness of execution in drill, the men must at least know the true position of the soldier and some little of his many duties. At the close of the drill the battalion stacked arms and broke ranks for a short rest, after which the line was again reformed (members wearing white gloves), and the exercises of the evening closed with the ceremony of dress parade, Captain Van Ingen, the senior officer present, assuming command. This is a specialty of the Twenty-third, and in its performance few regiments can excel it.

**TWELFTH INFANTRY.**—The officers and non-commissioned officers of this command, Colonel Ward, are ordered to assemble at the State Arsenal, corner of Thirty-fifth street and Seventh avenue, in fatigue uniform (side arms), for instruction and drill, March 27, at 8 o'clock p. m. The regiment will assemble in chasseur uniform (with leggings), for battalion drill, at the State Arsenal, March 29. Assembly at 7:45 p. m. The board for the examination of non-commissioned officers will meet at the regimental armory, Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, on Monday evening, April 3, at 8 o'clock, when all non-commissioned officers elected since December 1, 1870, will present themselves for examination.

**TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.**—The wings of this regiment are ordered to assemble at the armory for battalion drill, in fatigue uniform, as follows: Right wing (Companies D, A, H, and C), March 21, 28, April 4 and 18; left wing (Companies F, I, G, B, and E), March 24, 31, April 6 and 21. Assembly at 7:45 p. m. General Orders No. 3, current series, from these headquarters, are modified accordingly. Company drills may, at the discretion of company commanders, be discontinued from this date.

**UPTON'S CRITICS.**—A National Guard officer of one of the prominent regiments of the First division N. G. S. N. Y. sends us the following:

General Upton, in a letter published by you some time since relative to some movement executed by an Albany company, speaks of "movements which may be executed as the commandant dictates, provided there is any utility in them." That may be, and probably is, very correct; but where is this utilitarian power to stop, is a question which has puzzled me considerably; and as I am not likely to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion, I appeal to your judgment.

I have heard officers express their opinion that General Upton means that any movement can be executed in any manner, by the right, left, or inversely, provided a return to the original position is made. For instance, the battalion being in line of battle (six companies), right in front, ployment is made on the third division, left in front, which of course brings the third division in line as the first division in column. In the deployment from the above order, the commandant orders it on the third division, and commands *four right*, which, when the deployment is made, brings the left of the battalion on the right, and vice versa. Subsequently the battalion is manoeuvred into line with the right companies in the right wing, where they respectively belong. I claim in this that the deployment from column by division, *left* being in front as it then was, should have been executed toward the *left* by fours left, which would have brought the battalion in a correct position. I would have necessitated the occupancy of ground to the left, which might have been obstructed. Suppose it was: could not the deployment have been made just as well on the *first* division, which would have brought the right on the right and covered the same ground that the inverse movement covered, and no necessity would have occurred subsequently to bring the right on the right? Again: column of fours, right in front, to reduce the front to two, the command would be "Right by twos." My lieutenant executed *left* by twos with the same position of the ranks—that is, right in front. I maintain the movement cannot be executed, as it would, if brought into line to the front while being left by twos, bring the odd numbers in the even-numbered men's positions, and subsequent movements must be executed to bring them in their correct positions. The substance of all is, that I claim by Upton's Tactics (which we should be governed by) that movements executed with right in front does not mean an indiscriminate mixture of movements whereby one execution could gain the desired object. Right in front, all movements should be governed accordingly; left in front, the same. I do not argue that these movements are not correct, if required; but I think they tend to confusion in the ranks, lack of confidence and blunders in officers, and a total disregard for all prescribed movements and commands laid down in tactics. If I am laboring under a mistake, and need to more closely examine Upton, I should feel under many obligations.

Would this not be a *utility* movement? Desiring to move my battalion to the rear very quickly, could I not order (see Casey), "By the right of companies to the rear," instead of, as Upton says, to "Fours left about—Left forward, fours left"? I see more utility in Casey there, in one command and movement, than in Upton's combination of commands and movements. Would I be correct in making that movement?

My company or squad being faced to the front in line of battle, and I put them in march, the guide is necessarily left. I command, "Fours left about, march, guide right," because the guide must be given toward the side of the marching flank. They are now marching to the rear. Command again, "Fours left about," bringing them to the front as at first. On which side is the guide—the marching flank (right), or, as they are in the proper position, right in front, command guide left, without reference to the marching flank? It seems to me that commanding guide left immediately is infinitely better than to command guide right (toward marching flank), and then immediately after guide left.

Pardon me for trespassing upon your time. Probably Upton's Tactics can answer all, if read attentively; but I have failed thus far to find solutions to the above questions. Trusting for information, I remain

Your servant,

DISPUTANT.

1. There is nothing in Upton's Tactics which forbids the deployment of a column in such a manner as to bring the



left division on the right and the right division on the left; in some cases it might be necessary to execute this movement. Commanding officers of regiments and battalions should exercise common sense, and never undertake any movement unless it is thoroughly comprehended by their company commanders.

2. When the right is in front (primitive formation), to reduce the front to two men the command should be "Right by twos." Your lieutenant was clearly wrong in commanding "Left by twos." Upton certainly did not intend his "utility movements" for officers so ignorant of his principles as your subaltern. And here we would remark that when officers of the National Guard, with their limited opportunities for study and practice, thoroughly comprehend those movements expressly laid down in the Tactics, and have instructed their companies and battalions carefully in all details relating thereto, then let them begin with movements which their widened knowledge and enlarged experience has taught them to believe to be of utility.

3. The movement by the right (or left) of companies to the rear is a good one, and was used in Hardee and Casey. General Upton's reasons for discarding it are unknown to us.

4. Marching your company or squad in line (in their primitive order, i. e., tallest man on the right), the guide would be left. To march in retreat, the command would be "Fours left about," and then the guide would be on the right, and would be so announced; to return to the original position, the command should be "Fours right about," followed with "Guide left." We do not see the necessity of commanding fours left about time in succession. We hold that the about should be toward the side of the guide in all cases where the contrary is not especially enjoined.

AN ENTERPRISING COMPANY.—We received some time since company orders (which might perhaps have appeared more properly as a circular) issued by Captain Macfarlane, commanding the Ellsworth Zouave Cadets, Company E, Tenth Infantry, Albany, N. Y. We should have noticed the orders some time ago, but the document was mislaid. As it is based in part upon suggestions offered in these columns, and gives evidence of enterprise worthy of commendation, we make extracts of some of its most important points, if only to show that many out-of-town regiments with less advantages frequently set good examples for city organizations, who as a rule pride themselves on the novelty of all their recruiting enterprises:

By direction of a resolution of this command, the commandant hereby offers a prize of a gold company badge, to be presented to the member who shall enlist the largest number of recruits by the 29th day of May next. No member to receive the prize unless he enlists at least three recruits. Recruits are entitled to compete for the prize the same as old members. Drills will be held at the armory on every Thursday evening until the 29th day of May, and it is the intention of the commandant to commence with the school of the soldier, and continue a thorough course of instruction through the school of the company, instead of following in the beaten track of many companies, whose highest ambition seems to be carrying arms about the streets, which they are incapable of using.

This company has an armory which is second to none in the city, and it has recently been renovated and furnished, and the fixtures and appurtenances are the common property of the members, and the command is not in debt, and recruits have an undisputed right in the property. The company has two complete uniforms, an independent Zouave uniform and the regimental gray (both of which are full-dress), besides a fatigue uniform for drill purposes.

Company drills are held on Thursday of each week, about seven months during the year, and about six regimental drills and four parades are made during the year. The drills are always made in the evening, and about two of the parades occur on public holidays. An attendance at all the drills and parades is required, but those who are unable to attend, from business and other good causes, are always excused. It is the intention of the commandant to make the attendance a source of pleasure instead of an irksome matter of duty. The expenses of the organization is a matter to be considered, and the commandant, after much experience, believes that nowhere else can the benefits of membership in a first-class command be obtained for the small sum exacted here. The liabilities for a year are as follows: Rent, \$500; armorer's wages, \$150; incidental expenses, \$100—total, \$750. Of the above amount the following sums are by law chargeable to the county, and are paid to the company from the regimental fund: For rent, \$200; for armorer's hire, \$105—total, \$305; leaving a deficiency of \$445 per year to be paid by the members. We have the right to lease the armory for social parties, and about \$200 per year has been realized from this source alone; but this is not taken into account, as there is no security for revenue from this source. We have about thirty members who regularly attend and pay dues, and with thirty more the company affairs can be successfully managed by the payment of \$8 per year by each man. The initiation fee is \$3, and the dues \$6 per year, no charge being made for uniform or equipments.

During the term of service the soldier is exempt from taxes upon the amount of \$800, which alone will more than pay his expenses in the Guard. He is also exempt from jury duty, and should he serve the full term and receive an honorable discharge, he is exempt as long as he remains a citizen of the State. By a recent law an appropriation is made by the State each year to the uniform fund of the regiment, by which worn-out uniforms may be replaced and new ones added, and without expense to the soldier. The charges made against the service, of dissipation and extravagance, are unfounded, and exist only in imagination. The large number of respectable citizens who have served in this command will readily refute the slander. Target excursions and company parades are matters which the members control themselves, and the expenses are voluntarily incurred, and as a general rule those who do not participate do not share in the expense. On the 27th day of May next this command will have been in existence ten years, and it is intended to celebrate the anniversary in some public manner. For the past ten years your commandant has exerted his best energies for the maintenance of the honor and reputation of his corps, and promises in the future, as in the past, to labor

as faithfully and diligently, and with your co-operation will endeavor to make this corps second to none.

BATTALION ORGANIZATION.—We give the following interesting information contained in the military department of the Philadelphia Sunday Republic relative to the organization of a battalion of infantry. It contains many facts which perhaps are familiar to the majority of our readers. Still disputes often arise relative thereto, which may be set at rest by the perusal of the article. The writer is generally correct in his views, yet we beg to differ in one instance relative to his prescribed formations:

At the formation of a battalion of infantry, companies will be designated by a letter, which designation will be permanent.

In the line formation each company will be designated by a figure, the first on the right, and the tenth on the left, i. e., in regular order from right to left.

Suppose a battalion to be composed of ten companies, that each captain's company shall bear date in regular order, i. e., A first, B second, C third, and K last, the order of formation will be as follows:

1st, 6th, 4th, 9th, 3d, 8th, 5th, 10th, 7th, 2d,

A, F, D, I, C, H, E, K, G, B.

Divisions will be numbered from right to left:

Companies A and F, or 1st and 6th, first division.  
Companies D and I, or 4th and 9th, second division.  
Companies C and H, or 3d and 8th, third division.  
Companies E and K, or 5th and 10th, fourth division.  
Companies G and B, or 7th and 2d, fifth division.

No senior officer should be commanded by a junior. A battalion being composed of an even number of companies, one-half of its captains will be found senior to the others; therefore, the battalion will be so formed that each of the former will find himself in command of a division. There are three posts of honor in battalion formation—the right, the left, and the centre, and in the order here designated. To the right the first senior captain will be assigned; to the left the second senior captain will be assigned; while the third senior captain will command the centre or color division.

Below we give an infallible rule for finding each company's proper line designation; and that it may be the better understood, we give two examples, one for an even number of companies, the other for an odd number of companies.

Having ascertained the order of seniority of the captains, divide the number equally and arrange them in two rows, the figures to represent the order without reference to the letters:

1 2 3 4 5.....Seniors  
6 7 8 9 10.....Juniors

and you have the arrangement given above; but their order in line will be given as follows:

1st captain 4th captain 3d captain 5th captain 2d captain  
right centre left.

Should the battalion contain an odd number of companies, say seven, the following will be the order of promotion:

1 2 3 4.....Seniors  
5 6 7.....Juniors

Here it will be observed that the second senior captain commands a half division, and with which the battalion will be composed of four divisions:

1—5 6—3 4—7 2—

An even number of companies always in the right wing. The double column on centre, the first division will be composed of the third and sixth companies.

Companies should never lose their letter or number designation, except by an order to consolidate. A company with a special letter, assigned to a battalion which already contains a company bearing a similar letter, will drop its old and accept the vacant letter. But the system of consolidation in the Regular Army is so complicated that it is useless to go through the details here.

A volunteer company, though liable to change its numerical designation, will continue its letter through all changes. A captain in the Regular Army takes his promotion in the line from one company to another until he at last commands Company A. Such a rule in the volunteer service would not work for many reasons, the greatest of which is that companies of volunteers elect their officers. When a promotion takes place in a volunteer company, the company follows the captain, and enjoys the benefit of his promotion. This will account for the occasional disarrangement of letters in a battalion, while the regular order of numbers succeed to the company in its many changes.

Our objection to the above system of battalion organization is that, with less than nine companies, the third and fourth captains come together in the centre, and in double column the first division would consist of the third and fourth companies. Then again, the right wing need not necessarily consist of an even number of companies. How would it be with a full battalion, or nine companies, the third captain having to command the right centre company? To obviate this we would suggest the following as a more perfect and simple organization:

1—6 4—9 3—8 5—10 7—2  
1—6 4—8 3—7 5—9 2—  
1—4 7—3 5—8 6—2  
1—4 6—3 5—7 2—  
1—4 3—5 6—2  
1—4 3—5 2—  
1—3 4—2—

VARIOUS ITEMS.—Sergeant E. H. Sopher was recently elected second lieutenant of Company G, Thirteenth Infantry, vice Wing, promoted captain of Company C, same regiment. The "Webster Guard," Company E, Twelfth Infantry, give an annual reception at the regimental armory, Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, on the evening of the 23rd inst. Captain Knox McAfee is the efficient commandant of this well-drilled company, whose receptions, like its drills, are of high character. There is some prospect of the First division of this State being reduced eventually to two brigades, by which method its effectiveness would be more apparent, and its general cost greatly lessened, without any great reduction of its numerical strength. The plan is feasible, and undoubtedly has the attention of the State au-

thorities. The Fifth and Eleventh brigades of the Second division both have vacant assistant adjutant-generals' positions. Here are handsome posts for eligible military gentlemen who are willing to sacrifice time and money for rank and fame. Brigadier-General Louis Barger, the genial and popular commandant of the Second brigade, First division, we regret to announce, is seriously indisposed, having travelled South for the benefit of his rapidly declining health. We trust this well-known and veteran officer of the service will speedily regain his health. Sumner Post No. 24, Grand Army of the Republic, hold a calico sociable at Irving Hall on Thursday evening, March 30, in honor of the fourth anniversary of the organization of the post. Frank M. Clark is chairman of committee, Charles S. Cregler, secretary, and Ed. Brown, treasurer. On Monday evening last, at an election in Company B, Twenty-second Infantry, First Lieutenant A. E. Colfax was unanimously elected captain, vice Cullen, resigned, and Quartermaster-Sergeant Wm. P. Bogert, first lieutenant, vice Colfax, promoted. These selections on the part of Company B are exceedingly judicious, and from our knowledge of the gentlemen elected we can guarantee the continued prosperity of the company.

The members and ex-members of Company D, Forty-seventh Infantry, together with a number of invited guests, assembled at "Hotel de O'Reilly," Brooklyn, E. D., on Tuesday evening last, ostensibly to celebrate the election of two newly chosen officers of the company, and likewise to hold a reunion of the active and honorary members. The gathering, which was very social, was presided over by and under the general control of Lieutenants A. E. Barnes and Wm. J. Powell. The latter junior officer has been chosen from the ranks of the company, and is one of its most enthusiastic members, having by his individual efforts rapidly increased the numerical strength of the company, which before his accession was on the decline. On the occasion of this reunion, after a discussion of the viands, the usual number of speeches were indulged in, all of which, of course, were of the most flattering order. Major Rogers, Captain Tuttle, Lieutenants Barnes, Powell, Brower, Johnson, and others were among the speakers of the evening. A fine glee club, led by Dr. Gammage, favored the company with some good vocal music; and thus with song, story, and mutual intercourse a few happy hours were pleasantly passed. An appeal will be made from the late decision of Judge Cardozo in the recently tried false imprisonment case. The remains of Captain H. N. Burmaster, the late commandant of Company A, Fifth Infantry, were interred with military honors, at the Lutheran Cemetery, on Sunday last. The company, together with a detail of one non-commissioned officer and six privates from the regiment, accompanied by the regimental band, acted as the funeral escort. The deceased captain was a veteran member of the old Fifth, of a genial and quiet disposition, and generally esteemed by his comrades. On Wednesday evening last, at the house of Colonel Burger of the Twenty-eighth Infantry, First Lieutenant Schweitzer was the recipient of a handsome gold medal from the hands of Major Obernier, on behalf of Company G of that regiment. The captain of this company has resigned, and the lieutenant, it is stated, will be elected to fill the vacancy. A meeting of the representatives of the German military organizations, societies, lodges, etc., was held last Saturday evening in Williamsburgh for the purpose of arranging for the parade in the coming peace celebration. The next meeting will be held this (Saturday) evening, when we are informed that the Twenty-eighth and Thirty-second regiments, and Captain Kreuscher's Troop Cavalry, will signify their intention to participate in the grand parade on the 10th of April (celebration of restoration of peace in *der Vaterland*). The Twelfth came near losing its "I," but fortunately the blow was averted. We trust the company hereafter will not accept French leave, but stand by the old "Independence Guard" with true German unity. The Seventh propose having the band at the two last wing drills, which will occur early in April next. Company I, Thirteenth Infantry, Captain Bush, is drilling twice a week, preparing for its closing drill on the 31st of May next at the State Arsenal, Brooklyn. An exciting election will shortly occur in the field of the Twenty-second Infantry, and as the contest is similar to that of the Forty-seventh regiment, we say let the best man win. Messrs. Shannon, Miller & Crane, 46 Maiden Lane, have for gratuitous distribution to colonels or adjutants of regiments, for headquarters ornamentation, a number of handsomely framed and finely executed colored lithographs of the full-dress uniforms of the Regular and National Guard service.

MARYLAND.—Fifth Infantry.—The Baltimore correspondent of the Washington Capital, in an interesting sketch of this well known Baltimore regiment (a portion of which we gave in last week's JOURNAL) says the following of one whose name is particularly familiar in the vicinity of New York and among its military—it is the veteran drum-major "Bruce," late of the Seventy-first, whose name proper is George Bruce Barrett. We quote:

The drum-major of the Fifth (G. B. Barrett) is the author of a work entitled "The Drummer's and Fifer's Guide," which is used by the United States Army and by the militia all over the country. The major has been a soldier from boyhood. He was at one time the principal instructor of music at Governor's Island, New York, and subsequently became drum-major of the Twenty-second New York. During the war he served in this capacity with the Seventh New York. The armory of the Fifth is under his immediate charge.



## FOREIGN MILITARY AND NAVAL ITEMS.

It is reported that the Italian Government has commenced the works necessary for improving the defences of Rome.

The Turkish Government is in the English markets for 10,000 barrels of the strongest and most costly gunpowder that can be produced.

THE three famous monster guns in the fort of Mont Valérien, named respectively Josephine, Valérie, and Beethoven, are to be transported to Germany.

THERE will probably be a raising of a brass memorial shaft in Berlin, a rival to that in the Place Vendôme in Paris, as there were 1,400 brass guns among the spoils of Paris.

THE Prussian system of sham campaigns, lasting several days, the details being left to the discretion of the officers in command, will be introduced into the British army this year.

THERE lately passed through Nancy nine Japanese officers of high rank, homeward bound, after witnessing the investment and capitulation of Paris. They had with them an interpreter, formerly an officer in the British army.

It is understood at Chatham that the iron mortar boats and gun vessels, which have been laid up high and dry at that dock-yard since the Russian war, will be shortly removed round to the Thames, and used as landing places for imported foreign cattle.

ENGLISH and Chinese gunpowder contains 75 parts of saltpetre, 10 of sulphur, and 15 of charcoal; French and American, 75 parts of saltpetre, 12½ of sulphur, and 12 1-2 of charcoal; Prussian, 75 parts of saltpetre, 11 1-2 of sulphur, and 13 1-2 of charcoal; Russian, 73.8 of saltpetre, 13.6 of sulphur, 13.6 of charcoal; and Austrian, 75 parts of saltpetre, 10 of sulphur, and 15 of charcoal.

THE manufacture of the new bronze field guns adopted by the British authorities last year has been temporarily suspended, in consequence of certain defects in the casting of these weapons, the causes of which defects are being investigated by a committee, but had not yet been ascertained. In the meantime muzzle-loading wrought-iron guns with steel tubes were being manufactured.

THE new Turkish iron-clad steam corvette *Djelalie*, built at Trieste, has arrived in the Bosphorus. Her armament will consist of three guns—and three only—of the heaviest calibre. The *Djelalie* brought with her ten mitrailleuses and seventy cannon of long range ordered in Germany by the Turkish official known as the grand master of artillery. Twenty other mitrailleuses also ordered by Halil Pasha have arrived at Constantinople.

EIGHT hundred letters reached Paris from the provinces during the siege in a zinc ball 12 inches in diameter, floated down the Seine, having little wings like those of a mill-wheel. The weight was calculated so that this ball thrown into the Seine moved at a certain depth below the surface. The current striking the wings made it progress rapidly. The postal administration in Paris was informed of the plan, and had the balls sent by M. Steenackers fished up at a water-gate contrived on purpose.

SCIENCE, remarks *Nature*, has derived many wrinkles from the siege of Paris, and we now learn from the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, "that all the galleries of the Louvre are filled with sacks of earth to protect the interior from shells; and the damp and comparative warmth of the last few days have provoked active vegetation, so that the bags are covered with grass and weeds; each window is converted into a lively and promising garden. If the arrangement is left undisturbed much longer, we shall have flower beds there."

THE London *Standard* learns from the very best authority that Bourbaki is likely to recover, and that his attempt at suicide was caused mainly, if not entirely, by the treatment he received at the hands of Gambetta. The general had inflicted on him, as a sort of commissioner or strategic adviser, a M. de Verre, a civil engineer educated at the Ecole Polytechnique. This man, who has been Gambetta's chief military adviser, and a French parody on Von Moltke, reported everything to his employer, who wrote Bourbaki a letter full of the most violent reproaches and plain accusations of treason. Stung by this treatment, his mind was overwhelmed by the weight of a responsibility to which he was not equal, and, reduced to despair by the cry of the soldiers for bread, Bourbaki, on the 26th January, in his room at Besançon, shot himself in the head; yet, though the muzzle actually touched his forehead, the wound was not mortal.

THE English Government has been quietly improving the defences and capabilities of Malta as a naval station. Sites for fortifications have been selected, material for the manufacture of torpedoes sent out, and a new dock, the widest and deepest in the world, has been completed. Its dimensions and those of the former dock are:

	Somerset Dock.	Old Dock.
Depth in entrance and on floor	34 ft.	25 ft.
Width between copings	104 ft.	73 ft.
Length on floor	430 ft.	301 ft.
Width of entrance	80 ft.	73 ft.

The entrance to it is a dock in itself, being 270 feet long, 83 feet wide, and 34 feet deep.

ENGLAND is evidently the Elysium and El Dorado combined of the military inventor. From a Parliamentary paper it just issued appears that during the ten years ending the 31st of December, 1869, the following amounts were paid to inventors by the Government: Mr. Snider, Colonel Roden, and Mr. Wilson, £16,000, for plan of converting muzzle-loading small arms into breech-loaders; Major Palliser, for chilled projectiles, £15,000, and £7,500 for plan of converting cast-iron guns; Captain Moncrieff, for method of mounting guns, £10,000, in addition to £1,000 a year salary, and £5,000 as a final payment when his services are no longer required; Mr. W. Hale, for rockets,

£8,000; Mr. Fraser, for construction of guns, £5,000; Mr. Westley-Richards, for breech-loading carbines, £2,375; representatives of Colonel Baddeley, for patent screw band for rifles, £1,500; Mr. P. Pottman, for concussion fuses, £1,200, in two awards; Mr. Lancaster for rifling arms, £4,000; Mr. Clarkson, for compound material for cartridges, £1,000; Mr. Henry, for prize breech-loading rifle, £600; with numerous smaller awards to other inventors.

THE British authorities have completed the proof of six 25-ton guns of 11 inch bore, the only guns of that calibre at present in the service. The guns have been proved with varying charges up to 87 1-2 lbs. of powder and 600 lb. shot, the proof cartridge being as usual 1-5th more than the service charge, which for this gun is 60 lbs. In appearance they are nearly as large as, and not unlike, the great 35-ton gun (the "Woolwich infant"), the principal difference being in the outer coil or jacket, which is much stouter in the case of the heavier gun, and covers more of the inner tube. The bore of the 25-ton gun is 11 1-2 inches in diameter, only 1-2 inch more than those which are 10 tons less weight, but the additional 1-2 inch permits an increase of the powder charge to 150 pounds, and the projectile to 700 pounds, and renders the big gun theoretically capable of throwing a shell of that weight about six miles. Ten more of the 25-ton guns are to be manufactured with all speed, and at least one of them has been commenced. These are especially intended for the navy, and will be probably first used in the three large breast monitors now building. Two of these ships, the *Thunderer* and *Devastation*, are of 4,400 tons burden, and the other, the *Fury*, is of 5,000 tons. Each vessel is to carry four of the 25-ton guns, in two turrets, two guns being placed side by side in each turret.

THE English, having decided upon the adoption of the Martini-Henry rifle, have begun their manufacture. The cartridge is to be the original "Boxer" pattern, and the 300,000 rifles will occupy about three years to issue, on account of the inability to manufacture the powder faster. Having made their decision and begun work, it is now in order, according to the usual English rule, to criticise the weapon. We accordingly find that the Marquis of Blandford has published a letter in the *Times*, in which he disputes the superiority claimed for the Martini-Henry over the Snider, on the ground of its breech action and the riskiness of a weapon which requires no appreciable time to load, and when loaded is always on full cock. He suggests that a regiment of the Guards should be armed with the Martini in order to see if the weapon answers to a really practical test, "before rushing off wildly into this new system, which many military men disapprove, and many intelligent mechanics declare to be utterly worthless, notwithstanding the very scientific sand and water tests which have been applied." The *Broad Arrow* says that the suddenness with which the Government decided to adopt the Martini-Henry suggests a grave doubt as to the reason on which their decision was based. The short Martini-Henry rifle with sword bayonet is to be adopted for the naval service.

HERR VON WICKEDE, of the *Cologne Gazette*, thus describes some of the ghastly scenes connected with the rout of General Bourbaki's army: "Heaps of forsaken corpses moulder away among the bushes and in the ditches by the high road. Not far from Montbéliard a doctor and I found eight Frenchmen dead in one house, and already in an advanced stage of decomposition. Among them lay a wounded man still alive, and who cried out for help in a lamentable voice. We took him out with some difficulty and laid him in the open air. He was a little man, scarcely 17 years of age, a student at Avignon. A Prussian grenade had torn his two legs below the knees. He had remained in this state seven whole days without being attended to, without water, and entangled among all those corpses. He had wrapped up his wounds in the rags of his uniform, and the cold had stopped the hemorrhage. He had crawled up to his companions, and had taken bits of biscuit out of their pockets, which sufficed for his subsistence; he had slaked his burning thirst by drinking the great flakes of snow which fell in at the window. He had lived thus for a week. The unhappy man has been taken to Switzerland, and the doctor thinks he will live. Horseflesh is now the principal food of the inhabitants of the country; and I have myself seen a bevy of famished women throw themselves upon a dead horse like a pack of wolves, and, tearing it with all sorts of instruments, swallow morsels quite raw. I have even been told, but I do not vouch for the truth of this, that the unfortunate people have eaten human flesh taken from the remains of the dead soldiers. This is the eighth campaign I have been through, but neither in Algeria, nor in Italy, nor in Bohemia, nor even in Schleswig, have I seen sights so horrible."

A PAPER embodying an elaborate investigation of the strains which ships undergo at sea was read at the London Royal Society, by Mr. E. J. Reed, C. B., late Chief Constructor to the British Navy. The author had selected Her Majesty's yacht *Victoria* and *Albert*, as a type of long, fine-lined, lightly-built ships, with great weight of engines and boilers in the middle; the *Minotaur*, as a type of long, fine-lined ships, with great weight distributed along their entire length; the *Bellerophon*, as a representative of short, stoutly-built ships, with weights more concentrated; and the *Audacious*, as a model of ships with extremely concentrated weights. The smooth-water strains of all these ships were illustrated by numerous diagrams. It was shown that a ship like the *Minotaur*, floating among waves 400 ft. long and 25 ft. high from hollow to crest, which have a time of transit of about 8½ seconds, passed in half that time from a bending or breaking "moment" of 140,000 foot-tons tending to break her in two by the dropping of the ends to a reverse strain of 74,000 foot-tons, so that fifteen times per minute a "wave of strain," as Mr. Reed designated it, having these enormous quantities for its positive and negative amounts, sweeps through the fabric of her hull. The *Victoria* and *Albert* yacht has to undergo, in like manner, strains which tend to break her downwards

at the ends with a force of 16,400 foot-tons, and in less than four seconds encounters a strain tending to break her downwards at the middle, and let her engines and boilers fall through her, equal to nearly double this amount, or 31,000 foot-tons. It is remarkable that this change of strain in this lightly-built hull is proportionately greater than that of either of the ironclads. The *Bellerophon's* maximum strain in waves, similarly calculated, were 43,600 foot-tons and 48,800 foot-tons respectively. In illustrating the influence which rapid changes of strain exert upon structures, the author referred to the experiments of Sir W. Fairbairn, who has shown that the joints of an iron-riveted beam broke under the action of a rapidly-alternating strain, although it was only one-third in amount of what the beam would sustain at rest. Mr. Reed stated that his investigations had shown many of the general principles laid down by former investigators, who had dealt with very different forms of ships, to be erroneous, and, in particular, opposed the very common notion that there is a compensating action between the strains of, and the wave actions exerted upon, very long fine-lined vessels. He further stated that while the weakness exhibited by many modern ships had induced him to enter upon these investigations, the result of them had been to convince him that calculations which had hitherto been neglected were becoming daily more and more necessary, especially as the length of steamships and the lightness of their construction in iron and steel were being very rapidly and simultaneously developed.

THE London *Times* declares "that the great want of our (the British) navy at the present time lies in powerful ships of light draught for operations on our own or on an enemy's coast. The Russian navy contains, so far as our information extends, at least 19 monitors, of which the greater number draw no more than 10 1-2 ft. of water. The American navy is far more numerous in these powerful engines of coast defence, besides having a few larger monitors like the *Dictator* and the *Kalamazoo*, designed for ocean service. We have not a single ironclad afloat which could follow the Russian or American monitors into shallow water, and even the *Cyclops* class, which we are on the eve of completing, draws more water than is desirable for such a service. We built a breastwork monitor, called the *Abyssinia*, for the Indian government, which draws only 12 1-2 ft. of water, and, though less powerfully armed than the *Cyclops*, it is still a very formidable ship. We believe that if the freeboard of the *Cyclops* were lowered from 3 1-2 ft. to 2 ft. we might have an improved *Cyclops* with engines of 350 horse-power, and a speed of 12 knots, combined with a draught of 13 ft. But, even as it is, the class of which the *Cyclops* is the type is very formidable, having armor-plates of 6 in. to 10 in. thickness, and four 600 pounder guns."

## LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

The following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the dates given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

ARMY.	
MARCH 17.	
Baker John A., Colonel.	Read, E. G., Captain.
Grinnell, R. M., Major.	Pierce, J. Frank, Major.
Hart, P., Captain.	Sterns, J., Captain.
Herrick, M., Captain.	Thomas, J. A., Captain.
Kelly, James, Captain.	Webb, J. J., Colonel.
Nichols, Franklin, Captain.	Wood, A. M., Colonel.
MARCH 21.	
Buel, G. P., General.	Piatt, John, Captain.
Deverre, H., Colonel.	Sparrow, H., Captain.
Elliott, A. V., Colonel.	Smith, E. S., Captain.
Harl, Henry, Captain-2	Wardell, Captain.
Luba, J. H., Captain.	Weaver, B., Captain.
Merrill, F. A., Captain.	Whitney, Steven, Colonel.

## DIED.

ABBOT.—At Willet's Point, New York Harbor, on the 13th inst., MARY SUSAN EVERETT, wife of Major Henry L. Abbot, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.

The remains were taken to Mount Auburn, near Boston, where they were buried, on Wednesday, March 15. Mrs. Abbot leaves three children, the eldest 14 years of age, the youngest but three weeks.

WHITE.—At Fort Monroe, Va., on Monday, March 20, 1871, FRANCIS BATELLE, youngest child of Mary E. and Brevet Captain John C. White, U. S. A., aged six months and nine days.

A CHANGE OF LIFE.—Full of life and health, little Allie one day wandered from her home gaily pursuing a gaudy butterfly. Gladly she followed it from flower to flower, but vain were her attempts to catch it. Wearied with her sport, she entered a beautiful garden, in which roses and flowers of every hue and clime were blooming brightly. In that garden daily walked an angel calling what was purest. When she saw the lovely, worn-out child, with gentle voice she urged her forward, calling her pet names, and telling her if she would follow her she should gather roses always, and never know care or pain. The child consented, and on earth were tears and sorrow for a loved one dead. Her mother had not heard the angel's voice, and thought her darling mourned for home. She did not see her rejoicing among the blest in heaven, and could not but think she missed her love and care. Meantime the child was happy. The promise in the garden had been fulfilled, and Allie gathered roses and was free from pain. Day after day she made garlands with her sister angels, and found among them two who had loved her well on earth; but sometimes in her play she would stop her sport and look up with her well-remembered wistful look, and ask for those at home. Then she who led her there would greet her lovingly, and gladden her with brighter flowers, telling her she soon should see them all, and would go with her beyond the gates to call for parents, sister, and little "Brub." Time passed, and they whose idol she had been felt the stir of angel wings, and heard her calling; and now as they bow above that lowly mound, though aching still to hear her gentle voice, with its accustomed sweetness, they know that she is rejoicing with the pure in heart, and humbly hope they may one day enter with her through the golden gates, and with her kneel before the throne.

DE TANTI.

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